

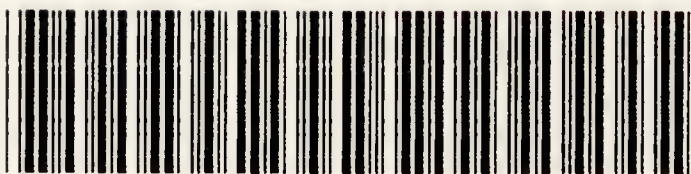
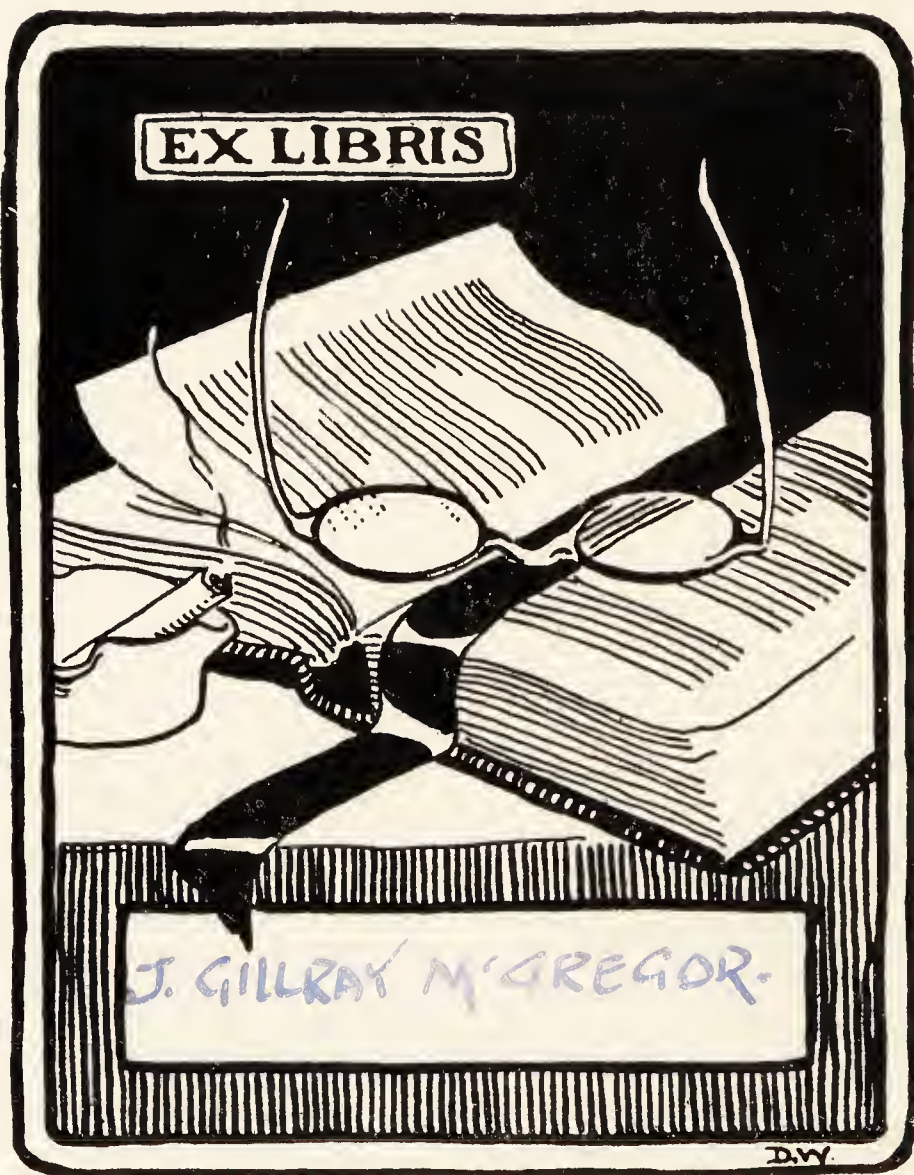
HISTORY OF THE EDINBURGH  
VETERINARY COLLEGE

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O. CHARNOCK BRADLEY



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HISTORY OF THE EDINBURGH  
VETERINARY COLLEGE







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Your Mo. Obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>  
William Dick



# History of the Edinburgh Veterinary College

BY  
O. CHARNOCK BRADLEY

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

OLIVER AND BOYD  
EDINBURGH: TWEEDDALE COURT  
LONDON: 33 PATERNOSTER ROW, E.C.

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## PREFACE

THERE are good reasons why a history of the Edinburgh veterinary school should be written, and even better ones why it should be written at the present time. The life of the Founder is inspiring, for the history of his school is very different from that of the majority of institutions devoted to education. No wealthy man endowed it : no public subscription-list brought it into being : no appeal was made to or support given by the State : a famous University could not help. A poor man, the son of poor parents, started out on a venture supported by nothing more than a promise of £50. He cut his coat according to his cloth, and continued so to cut it—weaving the cloth himself. And there is something almost romantic in the story of a brother and sister, living in and for the Clyde Street school, tending and watching over it continually, proudly noting its growth, doubtless exulting a little as they saw it go from strength to strength, and, dying, making it their sole heir. The picture is enriched by the figure of William Worthington, that loyal and devoted servant who so well deserves more generous treatment than he has received in this history. The desire to do him justice was there, but material facts were wanting.

Further, it is fitting that as complete a story of the school as is possible should be compiled at the end of the first century of its existence. The history of the College up to the time of the Founder's death was written in 1869 by R. O. Pringle, as an Introduction to *Occasional Papers*, but the later chapters can only be read in the pages of Minute Books.

I dare not hope that every detail in the following pages is free from error, but it can be claimed that no pains have been spared to verify statements so far as this has been possible.

It was my original intention to include a chapter in which the names and achievements of notable alumni should be recorded. The task, however, was hardly begun before difficulties made themselves manifest. With the truly notable dead there was no trouble: everyone would have agreed that their inclusion was justified. But where was the line to be drawn? Who was to say that this or that departed alumnus had or had not attained real notability? And if differences of opinion were inevitable in the case of those whose career is closed, even more certain is it that there would have been disagreement respecting those who have yet, perchance, to add many leaves to their bays. The attempt, therefore, was abandoned. If the future holds the making of any list of graduates—and it should—the list must be a complete one. It must contain names that are familiar far beyond the confines of the

veterinary profession, and names known only to intimates. This means that it will have to be compiled and published entirely *con amore*. A gladly willing compiler can be found; but a publisher——

Grateful acknowledgments are here made to all those—and they are many—who have helped in the preparation of this short story. Very special thanks are due to my colleague, Professor J. Russell Greig, who has given time and care liberally to the elucidation of doubtful points. To him I also owe thanks for many fruitful suggestions and hints, and help in directions too numerous to specify. Thanks are also due to Mr A. Grierson, Town Clerk of the City of Edinburgh, and to his assistant Mr J. Jarvis, for facilities and help in connection with the examination of the Minute Books containing the history of the College from 1866 to 1906; to Mr Fred Bullock, Librarian of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, for information relating to Dick's connection with the R.C.V.S., and for the dates of the foundation of the European veterinary schools; to Mr John Stirton, Secretary of the Highland and Agricultural Society, for help in verifying the earlier history of the College; to Mr J. T. Murray for the care with which he has made the drawing of the new College buildings; to the Council of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh for permission to copy the portrait of Dr John Barclay; to Principal Hewlett, of the Bombay Veterinary College,



to Sir Stewart Stockman, and to Mr J. Clarkson, for portraits of former Principals of the College; to Mr R. P. Phillimore for the loan of a block of his etching "White Horse Close"; to Messrs A. & C. Black for permission to copy the engraving of "Paul's Work"; and to the staffs of the *North British Agriculturist*, the *Scotsman*, and the Register House for help in consulting files and records.

O. CHARNOCK BRADLEY.

EDINBURGH, *June* 1923.

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# HISTORY OF THE EDINBURGH VETERINARY COLLEGE

## I

HE, whoever it was, who characterised the Edinburgh of the end of the eighteenth century as a hot-bed of genius, could he have looked into the future, would doubtless have been quite willing to extend the epithet to the first part of the nineteenth century. Though the total population of the town during the first twenty-five years of the eighteen hundreds was not great—it was generally estimated at somewhere about 100,000—it contained more than its share of those who either had made, or were destined to make, an enduring name in Law and Literature, Science and Medicine. Jeffrey, Sydney Smith, “Christopher North,” Carlyle, and Lockhart; and Scott, whose wizardry was weaving a spell over the whole world of romantic literature; Dugald Stewart and David Brewster; and a host of lesser lights and younger men—all were contributing to the intellectual splendour of this period. Were we furnished with no other evidence, the foundation of *Blackwood* and the *Edinburgh Review* within a few years of each other, and the vigour and high literary standard of the contributions to their pages, would be sufficient to distinguish both place and time.

And in a University of European celebrity, and other institutions that, though they certainly could not claim to be so widely known, were yet of such quality as to be noteworthy, Edinburgh had already laid a solid foundation for the quip that her chief industry is education. A sixteenth-century High School, for the education of the sons of the more well-to-do burghesses, and concerning which it could be said in 1800 that "the Rector's place is supposed to be worth not less than £400 per annum"; Heriot's Hospital, "for the maintenance, relief, and bringing up of so many poor and fatherless boys, freemen's sons of the town," housed in "the most magnificent building of its kind in Edinburgh"; and Watson's Hospital, where the boys were "genteelly clothed and liberally educated," formed a trinity of schools of which any town of its size and time might feel pardonably proud.

To the history of the University itself, one of the most important chapters was added during the early part of last century. In 1789, with much pomp and circumstance, the foundation-stone of the new buildings had been laid; but lack of funds owing to the war had put a stop to operations in 1793. Then, in 1815, the claims of "the most celebrated University in Europe," as it had been called twenty-seven years before, were urged with such weight and cogency that money was again forthcoming; and during the eleven years succeeding 1816 the fabric, as we now know it in the South Bridge, was slowly reared. Thus, soon after the end of the first quarter of the nineteenth century, there was completed ocular demonstration to



the citizens of Edinburgh of the celebrity of their University that "stood perhaps unrivalled, and had long so stood as a school of medical knowledge."

The fame of the medical school had grown mainly out of the labours of the two Monros, *primus* and *secundus*, the two Gregorys, father and son, and Cullen; though others of less brilliant reputation had done their share to make Edinburgh one of the best-known centres of medical teaching and progress. At the beginning of the nineteenth century, the pioneers, with the exception of James Gregory, had departed; but there was a goodly company of younger men, some within the University and some outside, who were fit bearers of the torch.

Among the extramural teachers who contributed to the fame of the medical school was John Barclay, whose name is unforgotten and unforgettable by all connected with the veterinary school.<sup>1</sup>

The second half of the eighteenth century had seen the rise of a definite Edinburgh school of surgery, thanks largely to the efforts of Benjamin Bell, who, though he could write to his father in 1770 that "Medicine is taught in Edinburgh in greater perfection than in any other part of Europe, or, indeed, of the whole world," could not view the position of surgery with a like satisfaction. Less than half a century,

<sup>1</sup> Though the whole of Barclay's life as a teacher was spent outside the University, he would have been the first occupant of a proposed Chair of Comparative Anatomy had it not been for the strenuous and unfortunately successful efforts of *Monro tertius* and Jameson. One of Kay's celebrated caricatures depicts Barclay seated on the skeleton of an elephant striving to force the gate of the University against the opposition of *Monro*, Jameson, and Hope.



however, produced a change, and by the time William Dick had made up his mind that a veterinary school must be added to the educational institutions of the town, Edinburgh possessed a number of surgeons of no mean merit. Some of these were of about the same age as Dick himself (Robert Liston and John Lizars, for example), while others were older and already of established repute.

These were the days, too, when a thirst for knowledge was universal and the people of Edinburgh in the lower ranks of society were possessed by an inherent love of learning, "from the pursuit of which no poverty was sufficient wholly to deter them." Those who were debarred by lack of means, or by other impediment, from availing themselves of the cultural facilities offered by the University; and those who sought instruction that did not form part of the University curriculum, were sufficiently numerous and enthusiastic to ensure the prosperity of a School of Arts that may well be regarded as having been a University for the People.<sup>1</sup>

The home of a University and medical school so famous, it was inevitable that sooner or later Edinburgh would have a veterinary school as well. Indeed, the wonder is not that the city ultimately became a centre of veterinary science and teaching, but rather that this did not happen earlier. Agriculture then, as now, was the staple industry of Scotland, and more so relatively

<sup>1</sup> "It was in October 1821 that an institution for the instruction of mechanics, since known as 'The School of Arts,' was opened in Edinburgh. If not the first, it was certainly the second establishment of the kind in Britain." (Cockburn's *Memorials*.)

then than now, for industry and commerce had not yet obtained so firm and extensive a grip of the larger towns. Moreover, agriculture and rural affairs were fostered by a powerful society that had its headquarters in Edinburgh.

That veterinary science, as a science and not solely as an art (largely of bluff) under the name of farriery, was no new thing at the beginning of the nineteenth century is brought home to us by a long list of veterinary schools that existed on the Continent before 1800. Indeed, the Continent of Europe was bristling with veterinary schools before the end of the eighteenth century had been reached. France had led the way at Lyons in 1762, and had followed this up by a second school at Alfort three years later. Italy had schools at Turin (1769), Padua (1774), Parma (1776), Milan (1791), and Naples (1798). Germany had founded a school at Dresden in 1774, to be followed by Hanover (1777), Freiburg i. B. (1783), Carlsruhe (1784), Berlin (1790), Munich (1790), and Wurzburg (1791).<sup>1</sup> A school was founded at Vienna in 1777, and one at Budapest in 1786. The Copenhagen school was established in 1777; and Sweden had a school at Skara in 1774. Even Spain had founded a veterinary school at Madrid before the end of the eighteenth century (1793).

<sup>1</sup> In the Schrader-Hering *Biographisch-literarischen Lexicon der Thierärzte aller Zeiten und Länder* it is stated that, in his writings (prior to 1770), Dionysius Robertson, a native of Scotland, expressed his intention to establish a veterinary school at Landsberg a. d. Warthe. The intention remained unfulfilled; otherwise the oldest veterinary school in Germany, and one of the oldest in Europe, might have been founded by a Scotsman.



During the first quarter of the nineteenth century other veterinary schools came into existence on the Continent—Berne (1808), Jena (1816), Zürich (1820), Stuttgart (1821), Utrecht (1821), Stockholm (1821), and Toulouse (1825).

England was not far behind Continental countries, for the London school was founded in 1791. Scotland, however, had to wait until well into the nineteenth century (1823), though it is of great interest to learn that there was a proposal, in 1793 or 1794, to start a veterinary school in Edinburgh. This we gather from the preface to one of the three books written by James Clark, an Edinburgh veterinary surgeon, who was evidently a man much in advance of his time. The preface was written in 1806, and, seeing that it is a really important footnote to the history of the veterinary profession, and because the book that contains it is apparently scarce and, therefore, difficult to consult, a fairly long quotation may be given without any feeling that apology is necessary:—

“The following Essays, or *First Lines of Veterinary Physiology and Pathology*,” Clark writes, “are short Extracts from the Lectures which were composed in the years 1793 and 1794, on the prospect of a Veterinary School being established at Edinburgh, under the direction of the Author; but, from the political situation of the country at the time, did not take place. This school was to have been patronised by some of the first noblemen and gentlemen of the country; and, at the same time, the Author had the fullest assurance of the countenance of Government for its aid and support. For



which reason, he declined the offer then made to him by the Directors of the Veterinary College at London, of standing a candidate for the then vacant Professorship by the death of M. St Bel their first Professor.

“The Author anticipated the many advantages that would be derived from an institution of this kind in Edinburgh, from its vicinity to the University so justly famed for the celebrity of its medical and surgical Professors, and attended by a numerous concourse of Medical Students from all parts of Europe; that while many of them were attending other branches of medical education, some might be induced to attend the Veterinary Class. The many advantages arising to the science from this circumstance alone, of being studied by men who had the advantage of a liberal education, would have been the surest means of improving the art, and of disseminating veterinary knowledge throughout the kingdom in a highly improved state.

“Another circumstance of equal importance attending a Veterinary School at Edinburgh, is, that young men who propose to follow the operative branch of shoeing horses, and indeed mechanics in general, get a better or more liberal education in this country, than their more southern brethren of the same profession in England.”<sup>1</sup>

There is an indefinable something in Clark's preface that produces the impression that he was not quite the man to play the part of pioneer. However this may be, it is clear that in his day the time was not yet ripe. The wave of veterinary education had only just reached

<sup>1</sup> *First Lines of Veterinary Physiology and Pathology*. By James Clark, Farrier to His Majesty for Scotland and Veterinary Professor, Edinburgh. Edinburgh: Printed for and sold by the Author, and also by W. Creech, W. Laing, Manners & Miller, Longman & Co., Cuthill & Martin, and J. Murray, London, 1806.

London, and had taken nearly thirty years to cross the Channel. It needed another thirty years to reach Scotland; or, rather, another thirty years were needed for the culmination of the impulse in Scotland.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, after Clark had, as it seems, reconciled himself to the frustration of his plans, there was no one forthcoming in Scotland sufficiently imbued with vision and strength of purpose and ambition to formulate fresh schemes and carry them to fulfilment, until William Dick reached manhood. Dick was not only the man fitted mentally and by heredity for the task he set himself: his also was the mind and spirit tuned to respond to the stimulating educational and medical atmosphere of his native town.

<sup>1</sup> It is noteworthy that, at different times, pioneers have gone forth from Edinburgh to found or become the first heads of veterinary schools in Canada, the United States of America, Australia, and Ireland.

## II

THAT the Edinburgh in which he was born and lived had an influence in inspiring, fostering and moulding the ambitions of William Dick, we may reasonably conclude; but parentage and his more immediate environment were all-powerful factors as more specifically determining the plan of his life and the field of his achievement. Of his father, John Dick, we can form but an imperfect mental picture; for, though he lived long enough to see his son's plans well on the way to fulfilment; and though, we cannot doubt, he was instrumental in no small measure in helping to the fulfilment, he was so overshadowed by the reputation of his son that his place in the history of the school is in danger of being overlooked. What we do know is that he was a smith and farrier, kindly and charitable, and of more than average parts. That he not only shod horses, but also treated their ailments, was merely in accordance with the custom of the day. In this he did not differ from his contemporaries. But that he was a farrier of more than ordinary skill and acumen we gather from the report that some of his methods of treatment were far in advance of the practice then current. We are assured, for example, that he



performed successfully the by no means simple operation of tenotomy.

To have a father such as we imagine him to have been, and to work by his side and under his guidance for some ten years, cannot have been without effect upon the mind of an impressionable young man. We can readily imagine father and son discussing the possibilities of the veterinary art, and the desirability that its practitioners should be men of definite training and accurate knowledge, long before a way to bring about those changes, which at that time were so urgently needed, had made itself clear.

We shall almost certainly be right in assuming that the primary determining factor in William Dick's choice of a career was parental influence. We shall doubtless also be right in concluding that the proximity of his home to a famous University and medical school of far-flung renown had its effect in turning his mind towards the foundation of a veterinary school. But we must not forget that, among the circumstances that influenced him, must be counted the happy chance that one day he walked into the lecture-room at No. 10 Surgeon Square.

John Dick and his wife, Jean Anderson, came to Edinburgh from Aberdeenshire when, it is said, "they were both about eighteen years of age."<sup>1</sup> Whether they immediately took a house and forge in White Horse Close, in the Canongate, cannot be determined ;

<sup>1</sup> This is ambiguous. If they came to Edinburgh together, they cannot *both* have been "about eighteen years of age," for John Dick was four years younger than his wife. If they came when John Dick was eighteen, the year was 1787.



WHITE HORSE CLOSE  
William Dick's Birthplace





nor is it certain how long they lived there. From the records of the places from which those of their children that died in infancy were buried, however, we learn that in April 1799 they were living in Rose Street, while by June of the same year they had moved to what was later to be known as Nottingham Place.<sup>1</sup> It is not until 1805 that the Post-Office Directory contains the entry, "John Dick, smith, Nottingham Place," which is continued up to and including the issue for 1814-15. In 1815 there is a change to "Dick, John, smith and farrier, 15 Clyde Street."

Eight children were born to John and Jean Dick, but of these one, the last, was still-born, and four died in infancy. Of the three children that lived to grow up, Mary was born in 1791, William in 1793, and John, who died at the age of nineteen, in 1802. Of the exact date of the birth of William there has hitherto been doubt, due, as it turns out, to the fact that he was not baptised until he was six years of age. Those who previously examined the registers of baptism did not carry their search far enough, and it has been left to my colleague, Professor J. Russell Greig, to discover the following entry under the date of 5th December 1799 :—

"John Dick, smith, and Jean Anderson his spouse, College Church Parish, a son born 6th May 1793 named William—bap. in Church."

<sup>1</sup> The actual entries are "Tumble Dust" (1799) and "Gilchrist Land, Mud Island" (1801). This particular part of the Nottingham Place of the future received these none-too-attractive names from the fact that it had been the tipping-place for the rubbish from the excavations of the foundations of the Register House.

It is generally assumed that William was born in White Horse Close, and this may well have been so; indeed, his own statement that he was born "at the Court end of the Canongate" supports this assumption. Concerning his early days there is no record beyond the fact that he was educated first at a school kept by the Rev. J. Robinson in Paul's Work, and afterwards at Mr Kesson's school in Shakespeare Square. After leaving school he worked as a smith with his father; but that he did not neglect to avail himself of further educational opportunities is clear from information we have to the effect that he attended a Mr Wilson's class in Rhetoric and a Mr Noble's class in Mathematics.

According to Dick's own account, it was about 1817 that he first heard of the London Veterinary College, which had been founded twenty-six years before. Anxious to know if such a place really did exist, he commissioned a bagman, who was going to London, to make enquiries.<sup>1</sup> "At that time, also, he became acquainted with a medical student with whom he used to talk on medical subjects, and who asked him if he would like to hear a lecture. In those days he knew little of the classics, and as he understood that the lectures were delivered in Latin, he did not hope

<sup>1</sup> We may take it that Dick commissioned the bagman to make enquiries of some sort or other, but he can have had little doubt of the actual existence of a veterinary school in London; for an Edinburgh farrier had already taken the professional course at the Camden Town school and, on his return to Edinburgh, had assumed the title of veterinary surgeon. Some little heart-burning had thereby been caused in the other Edinburgh farriers; and we are told that Dick's sister Mary said, with much pride, to the wife of the veterinary surgeon: "Oor Willum's gaun tae be a graun' veet'nar tae. He's saved enough siller noo tae tak the lang road coach for London, and," she added, "he's making his will afore he sterts."





PAUL'S WORK, WHERE WILLIAM DICK WENT TO SCHOOL  
Trinity College Church, where he was baptised, is in the background





to obtain a great deal of information. It happened, however, that he went to hear the late Dr Barclay, whose name was then spoken of in Scotland as one of her best anatomists. After hearing him, he had the impudence to think that it was possible that he himself might one day deliver a lecture on veterinary science; he accordingly proceeded to provide himself with books, and one of the first text-books was *Taplin's Farriery Improved*."

His entry into the lecture-room of John Barclay at No. 10 Surgeon Square was momentous in the life of William Dick, and in the history of veterinary science in Scotland. Whatever they may have been before, in that hour Dick's ideas were crystallised, and an object was envisaged from which he was never to turn his gaze. To shape and guide a mind fermenting with ambitious schemes, than Barclay no better man could have been found. Barclay was one of the leading scientists in Scotland, and was held in the very highest esteem by all with whom he came into contact. His repute as an anatomist was wide, and his charming manner endeared him to all who had the privilege of his acquaintance. Moreover, as one of the Directors of the Highland Society, he was in close touch with agriculture, and so could accurately gauge the value of veterinary science in its relation to rural economy. In him, Dick found a staunch, true and lasting friend, and to him the Edinburgh Veterinary School owes a debt of abiding gratitude.<sup>1</sup>

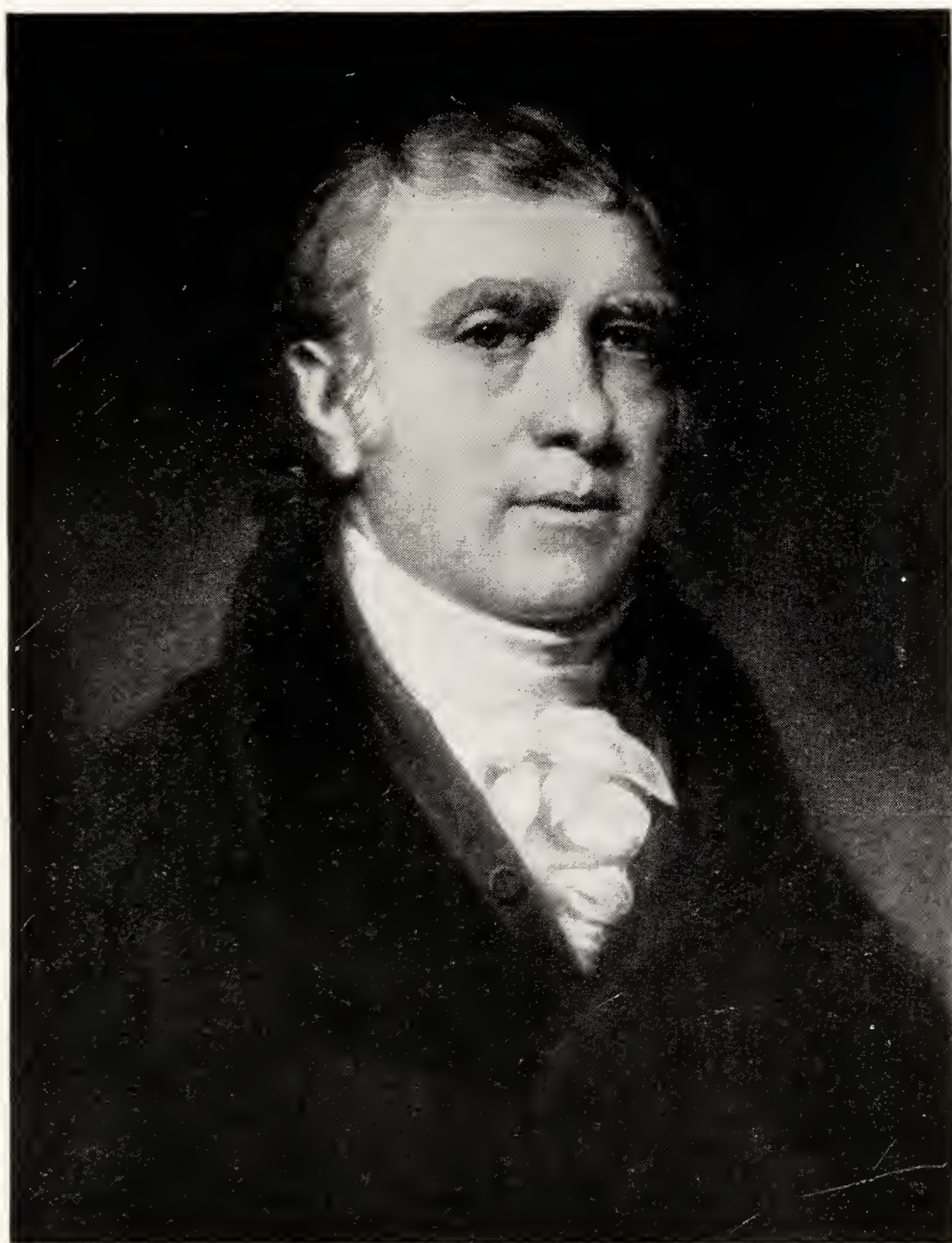
<sup>1</sup> Ballingall, in his *Life of Dr Barclay* (1827), says: "To him the public is chiefly indebted for the establishment of the Veterinary School, so successfully conducted by his pupil Mr Dick" (p. xiii).

Dick also attended lectures on the Practice of Physic by Professor Gregory, who “spoke in good, broad Scotch,” and Professor Hope’s lectures on Chemistry. Thus he laid a foundation of knowledge that was of inestimable value to him in his future calling, and—what is of even more moment—from these teachers he received, in generous measure, that kindly encouragement which is so precious when given to an ambitious young man who dares scarcely hope that his dreams may some day come true.

It was early evident that failure to realise his ambitions would not be due to either lack of application or want of ability. It is related that some of Barclay’s pupils were more than a little disturbed by a young man, who, “in a modest and unpretending manner, often put them to the blush, and at last led them to ask the Doctor if he knew who the young man was upon whom he lavished his commendations. The Doctor having declared that he knew nothing of him, was quickly told that he was a common working blacksmith. ‘Well, well,’ said the Doctor, ‘all I can say is, that whether he be a blacksmith or whitesmith, he’s the cleverest chap among you.’”

The enquiries made by the friendly bagman, whatever they may have been, were apparently satisfactory, for, in 1817, Dick took “the lang road coach for London.” Arrived there, he engaged a room at No. 27 Middlesex Street, Somer’s Town, and began attendance at the Camden Town School. He attended the bi-weekly lectures—entirely devoted to the diseases of the horse—given by Professor Coleman (then Principal of the





JOHN BARCLAY, M.D.

[Face p. 14



College) and, judging from his letters home, studied very closely and critically the treatment of the cases in the College hospital. His letters also reveal that he was not a docile and unquestioning believer in all his teachers chose to tell him. Nor is this altogether surprising. A certain amount of veterinary knowledge absorbed during many years' co-operation with an intelligent father and independent thinker; a glimpse of what medical teaching could be in the hands of the brilliant Barclay and his contemporaries; and a slightly self-opinionated mental temper, did not form a combination upon which anyone less than an exceptionally gifted teacher could make a deep or lasting impression. Indeed, it is probably quite safe to say that Dick's short sojourn in London had little if any effect upon him professionally. What he did gain, we cannot doubt, was the wider mental outlook incidental to travel generally, and an insight into the working of an established veterinary school.

Any regulation that may have existed relative to attendance at the London College was, at that time, enforced with considerable laxity; and so, though Dick did not go to London until the autumn of 1817, he obtained the diploma of veterinary surgeon on the 27th January 1818. To quote his own words: "Finding that it was possible to derive as much knowledge in Edinburgh as would lay the foundation for the successful working out of the scheme which I intently cherished in my mind, I considered it was not necessary to remain longer in the English metropolis. After three months' study there, I had the confidence



to apply for a diploma, the time of residence not being then defined, and I obtained it."

On his return to Edinburgh, Dick's one desire was to find some way to successfully work out, to use his own words, the scheme he so intently cherished in his mind. In the autumn of 1818, an opportunity for experiment in this direction was afforded, when a Mr Scott, of Parton, proposed to found an institution wherein instruction in a wide range of subjects could be obtained.<sup>1</sup> Dr Barclay suggested that the services of William Dick should be secured as lecturer on veterinary science. This was arranged; but no student elected to attend the class. This was unfortunate in a way, but was possibly due mainly to the too ambitious plans of Scott, whose venture was not successful. Nothing daunted, however, he repeated the experiment in 1819-20; again with Dick as one of his lecturers. The second essay was also a failure, and most of the classes terminated prematurely. Dick, this year, had four pupils, but apparently only one of these gave regular attendance at the lectures. When Scott's second venture came to an untimely end, Dick's diminutive class did not cease entirely; for he took an unfurnished shop in Nicolson Street, where we may picture him lecturing nightly, by the light of a candle, to his solitary regular student.

During the session 1820-21, Dick lectured in the Calton Convening Rooms, and had nine pupils. From the records of the Society of Incorporated Trades of Calton, to whom the Convening Rooms belonged, it

<sup>1</sup> Music and Painting were included among the subjects to be taught.

does not appear that he gave his lectures in the Rooms for more than one month—presumably about the end of 1820.<sup>1</sup> Whether he continued the class longer, and, if so, where, there is nothing to show. It is possible that he started the class chiefly to see what he could do on his own account, and that most, if not all, the pupils were his own farrier apprentices. This, however, is a matter of pure conjecture.

In 1821, the School of Arts came into being (in Freemasons' Hall, Niddry Street), and Dick offered to deliver a course of lectures on veterinary science without remuneration. The offer was accepted, and during the session (1821-22) seventeen farriers attended the class. He made a similar offer for the session 1822-23, which again was gratefully accepted. Seeing, however, that farriery was not a subject that could be “adopted as a permanent branch of instruction in the School of Arts,”<sup>2</sup> any more than that Dick could go on indefinitely delivering lectures for nothing, some more satisfactory and permanent arrangement had to be made if his scheme were ever to be brought to fruition.

Barren of pecuniary reward though the last four years had been, they cannot have failed to be of the very greatest value as an apprenticeship in the art of lecturing; and, judging from the syllabus of his first course of lectures in the School of Arts, during them

<sup>1</sup> The records of the Society of Incorporated Trades of Calton show that, on 24th January 1821, Dick paid the sum of £1, 5s. “for use of side room for one month” He made no further payment to the Society until May 1824; that is, until he had given his first course of lectures under the patronage of the Highland Society.

<sup>2</sup> The Second Annual Report of the School of Arts.

Dick was enabled to crystallise and systematise his knowledge in a manner that must have stood him in good stead when his school was actually started.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> A synopsis of the first School of Arts course of lectures is given as an Appendix (p. 86).

The story of Dick's early experiences as a lecturer is rather obscure ; but from the words of Dick himself, and from other evidence, the account as given above is probably substantially correct. In his speech at the Annual College Dinner on 26th April 1839, he said that his teaching experience had extended over five years before the Highland Society granted him their patronage. "Unfortunately for him, he had not a single pupil during the first year. In the next year he had four pupils, with regard to them, as the object of his was to establish a class, the fee was limited to a guinea each. In the next year he had nine pupils. In the year after that, the School of Arts was established, and he then thought that if any of the arts needed cultivation and improvement, it was that which he had been accustomed to teach, and he therefore offered his services to give a course of lectures on that subject. This offer was accepted, and he had a numerous class in that and the following year. At length, as he could not afford to be always lecturing for nothing, he thought he would try once more what he could do on his own account. The Highland Society then took him up." (*The Veterinarian*, 1839, xii., 403-404.)



## III

ABOUT 1821, the Lord Provost of Edinburgh (William Arbuthnot) had sought to induce the University to establish a Chair of Comparative Anatomy, which should include veterinary physic and surgery. The University authorities did not see their way to adopt the suggestion, but, recognising the desirability of a veterinary school in Edinburgh, expressed the opinion that such an institution might be established with advantage in connection with the Highland Society.<sup>1</sup> This, doubtless, led Mr Robert Robertson, merchant, of Edinburgh, to bring the matter to the notice of the Society; and, on the 21st May 1823, at a General Meeting, a letter was read pointing out the desirability of having in Edinburgh a Professor or Public Lecturer who could give instruction in Veterinary Surgery.

In order that the suggestion might receive due consideration, a Committee was appointed, consisting of Adam Ferguson, John Graham Dalyell, John Barclay, P. Small Keir, and Corse Smith, with Dr Barclay as Convener. Dr Coventry was added to the Committee

<sup>1</sup> *The Highland Society at Edinburgh* was the title by which the corporation had been known since the grant of a Royal Charter in 1787. In 1834, another Royal Charter was obtained, allowing increased scope to the activities of the Society and giving it the corporate name of *The Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland*.

later. At a meeting of the Directors of the Society, held on 4th July, the Committee submitted a report in which it was stated that the appointment, under the patronage of the Society, of a Lecturer was highly expedient. As the measure was entirely experimental, the Society should not be committed too far; and it was suggested that a sum of £50 should be placed at the disposal of the Directors to be applied in such manner as the Committee might think fit. The Committee further recommended that "the Society should be particular in the choice of the Lecturer." This report was approved at a General Meeting held on 7th July 1823.

With refreshing promptitude, a second report by the Committee was submitted at the meeting of Directors on 15th July, in which it was recommended that Dick, who, as it was said, had already had experience in the giving of lectures, should be appointed Lecturer. The Directors approved, and a Sub-Committee was appointed to attend to proper advertisements and such other details as might be necessary. The Committee came to terms with Dick, and he, "furnished with a forge and other appendages for the practical instruction of country farriers, accordingly began his first course<sup>1</sup> of lectures on the diseases of horses, black cattle, sheep and other domestic animals, illustrated by the necessary anatomical demonstrations." The "forge and other appendages for the practical instruction of country farriers" were those belonging to Dick's father, and were situated at No. 15 Clyde Street.

<sup>1</sup> That is, his first course under the patronage of the Highland Society.



The class met twice weekly—on Monday and Thursday evenings—in the Calton Convening Rooms, where the first lecture was delivered, with some ceremony, on Monday, 24th November 1823, in the presence of the Veterinary Committee of the Highland Society, a number of medical men, and others interested in the venture. Thus the *Highland Society's Veterinary School*, as it was long called, came into being.

During the first session (or *season*, as it was commonly called), the lectures, forty-six in number, were attended by twenty-five students. Of these, eighteen paid a fee of two guineas each, four (who had attended Dick's lectures previously) paid one guinea each, four were Dick's apprentices and were admitted free, and four were professional men to whom free tickets were presented. During the first year of its existence, therefore, the total revenue of the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College was £42 from fees and a grant of £50 from the Highland Society.

The number of students fell to ten in the session 1824-25, the reason assigned for the decrease being the inconvenience of the hour (seven o'clock in the evening) at which the class met. Nevertheless, so satisfied were the Directors of the Highland Society that the school was about to prove of value to agriculture, that, at their meeting on 29th June 1825, they determined to call the attention of members of the Society, noblemen, landowners, and farmers to what they described as "a very important but much neglected branch of rural affairs." This they did by means of a circular, in which they said—



“It is too well known to require illustration, that the treatment of horses and cattle under disease is lamentably defective in almost every part of Scotland. By much the greater part of farriers and cow-doctors purchase or inherit a set of receipts which are administered in all cases, and frequently without any correct idea either of the anatomical structure of the animal, or the probable nature and seat of the disease. . . . It is obvious that Scotland cannot too soon get rid of this reproach ; and the Highland Society having turned their attention to the subject, feel much satisfaction in recommending the school of veterinary surgery, established in Edinburgh during the last two years, by Mr William Dick, under their patronage and support. Actuated by one single object, the improvement of Scotland in every department of rural economy, the Society would wish urgently to impress upon the landowners and intelligent occupiers of your district, the great importance of establishing among you a steady individual, regularly and scientifically bred to the ordinary work of the forge, and to the correct treatment of live stock under those various diseases and accidents to which they are subject.”

The circular goes on to remind the various Agricultural Societies of Scotland that the lectures recommence in November, and notes the beneficial consequences that would result from various districts sending up one or more intelligent men to attend them. If classes on mechanics, chemistry, etc., and the use of a library are required, it is pointed out, these may be obtained on easy terms at the School of Arts. Continuing, the circular considers the probable expense,

and concludes that this "ought in no case to exceed £20 or £25, lectures of all kinds included"; and that "when employment as a journeyman is wished by any individual, and is obtained, either at Mr Dick's or some of the other forges in Edinburgh, it would probably be no more than the expense of travelling, and the lecturer's fee of two guineas, with the fees of the School of Arts, which are very moderate, should he attend that excellent institution." The circular is of value as showing the class of man from which the ranks of the veterinary profession were recruited during the early years of the Edinburgh veterinary school. Clearly, the intention was to get hold of the more intelligent working blacksmith and give him such a training in anatomical and clinical knowledge as would fit him to treat the ailments of animals in a manner less barbarous than that then in vogue.

The circular concludes with the statement that, "the lectures and anatomical demonstrations during the two past sessions have given great satisfaction both to practical farriers, and also to men of science who have occasionally attended; and from some able reports of cases transmitted from different parts of the country by young farriers who have attended the lectures, the lecturer is much gratified to find that the knowledge imparted had been productive of the best results."

A great deal of information relative to the earlier years of the school is contained in the reports of the Veterinary Committee of the Highland Society, and in the reports of Dick to that Committee. In his report for the session 1825-26, Dick states that the number of



students was twenty, that is, double that of the previous session. These were not all Scotsmen, for one of them came from Northumberland, and one from Cumberland; showing that the school had already made a start towards that wide reputation which, in a few years, was to attract men from every part of the United Kingdom, and even from distant corners of the Empire. In addition to those who came with the professed intention of qualifying themselves to practise the veterinary art, there were "amateurs," as Dick called them, who attended "for their private information."

During the session 1825-26 the course of instruction was extended from two lectures weekly to three, making sixty-five lectures in all instead of fifty as formerly. "Examinations"—presumably similar to modern viva voce tutorial classes—were held once a fortnight during the first part of the session, and once a week later on.<sup>1</sup> Dick also advised his pupils to meet once a week in order "to discuss amongst themselves the different subjects that had been treated on."

Three years after its inception, the school was not only justifying its existence, but was making such progress that further development was imperative. Dick now wished to extend the facilities for teaching by the formation of a hospital. "Until some permanent structure is raised, the difficulties that arise from the great inconvenience of the want of an hospital of sufficient extent, and with proper accommodation for sick and lame animals, must appear obvious, for it is

<sup>1</sup> The custom of devoting the class-hour on Fridays to tutorial revision work was continued for many years after Dick's death.



not by theory alone that students can ever learn what is necessary in this profession. They must also witness the progress of disease and the effects of remedies, the operations required and the time to perform them; and this can only be done by having an hospital in connection with the lecture-room."

In addition to the course of instruction in the veterinary school, Dick's pupils were admitted to the classes of various medical lecturers; and, on the suggestion of Dr Barclay, it was determined that an examination should be held at the end of each session, and certificates, declaring them "qualified to practise the veterinary art," furnished to those candidates who showed sufficient proficiency. The first public examination was held on the 23rd April 1828.<sup>1</sup>

In 1828, also, there was begun what was termed a "popular" course of lectures, at an afternoon hour, for the convenience of those who could not attend in the evening.

It is a little difficult to be certain exactly how much teaching, and of what nature, took place at Clyde Street at this time. There can be little doubt that clinical instruction was given at Clyde Street, and, of course, instruction in shoeing could only have been given there. And, from implication elsewhere, one is tempted to suppose that the students engaged in some amount of dissection also at that place. But it was not until 1829 (as shown by the records of the Society of Incorporated Trades of Calton) that the

<sup>1</sup> Barclay first made the suggestion in 1825, but it was not immediately acted upon.

lectures were transferred thither from the Calton Convening Rooms.<sup>1</sup>

A report of the "Committee of the Highland Society of Scotland, in charge of the veterinary school," dated 12th May 1830, that is, at the end of the seventh session, is precious in that it contains an account of the scope of the lectures delivered by Dick at that time.

"After commencing with an outline of anatomy, and a comparative description of the bones of the different domestic animals, taking the horse as a standard, and discussing the diseases of these bones as they come successively under examination, Mr Dick proceeded to treat of the muscles, tendons, and ligaments, with their various diseases, in the different animals. Next in order came the foot, with its diseases,

<sup>1</sup> Nevertheless, Clyde Street was regarded as the headquarters of the school from the beginning. The early advertisements were dated from there.

#### LECTURES ON VETERINARY SURGERY.

*Under the Patronage of the Highland Society of Scotland.*

Mr DICK will commence his Lectures on the Anatomy and Diseases of the Horse, Ox, Sheep, Dog, etc., in the Calton Hall, Regent Bridge, on Friday, 17th November, at 7 O'clock evening, and will continue at the same hour every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, during the season.

In these Lectures the nature and treatment of the Diseases of Domestic Animals will be carefully pointed out and illustrated, by the exhibition of cases by practical demonstration, and preparations of Morbid Anatomy. Also the various modes of shoeing and proper management of the Foot, etc. This course must be of great use, not only to practical Farriers, but to all persons having charge of valuable studs.

*Ticket TWO GUINEAS.*

CLYDE STREET, EDINBURGH,  
20th Oct. 1826.



and the various modes of shoeing, after which followed the organs of respiration, with the diseases affecting those parts, and the specific ailments of different animals connected therewith, as the murrain in cattle, distemper in dogs, tuberculous disease in swine, etc. The abdominal viscera of the horse, ox, sheep, and dog, and peculiarities of each, were next considered, with the diseases of the intestines, as 'hoven stomach' in cattle and sheep, colic, inflammation, etc., etc. Then followed the liver-rot in sheep, the urinary and generative organs, with the operations connected therewith, as castration, spaying, lithotomy, operation for hernia, etc. The skin, its functions and diseases, was next treated of; then the brain, nerves, and ear, with their diseases; and lastly, the anatomy and diseases of the eye.

“From this outline it is sufficiently clear that a very comprehensive course of study has been followed, and the students have throughout enjoyed the advantage of regular anatomical demonstration, practical operations, and clinical treatment of patients. With a view to the latter department, a very important addition has been made last session by Mr Dick, and at very considerable expense to himself. A stable has been provided, and appropriated to what may be termed *pauper* patients, where such are put under regular treatment, without expense to their owners, and with incalculable benefit to those attending the school.”

It is interesting to note in passing that, from the very first, diseases of all domestic animals were considered in the lecture course of the Edinburgh school, at a time when at the sister institution in London no attention was paid to any animal but the horse.

The Committee's report throughout is extremely



favourable to the school, and concludes by pointing out that "an imperious duty devolves upon every district of Scotland to acquire the practical aid of a well-educated veterinarian; and it is satisfactory to state, what experience has established, that steady and intelligent young men, of plain ordinary education, may be rendered extremely well qualified for veterinary practice after an attendance of two successive sessions under Mr Dick." In order to spread information relating to the existence and function of the school, copies of the report were sent to the various Agricultural Societies in Scotland.

It may be objected, with reason, that official reports drawn up and published by those actively promoting an institution are apt to be misleadingly, if innocently, eulogistic. Fortunately, however, we are in a position to compare and amplify the official report given above with an account given by one who was in no way interested in unduly lauding the school. Mr J. Castley, veterinary surgeon to the 12th Lancers, who had acted as one of the examiners of Dick's students, and who, in other ways, had had opportunities of making himself familiar with the buildings and method of teaching at Clyde Street, supplies an admirable pen-picture of the school as it was in 1830. Though the description is not without its critical passages, it is evidently informed with a deep sense of appreciation and admiration.

"One could wish," Castley writes, "to see Mr Dick's lecture room look somewhat less like the appendage of a forge; but then he never has to lecture to empty benches. He has a very considerable and yearly

increasing class. The Edinburgh school is entirely of his own creation; and I am happy to see that he is likely to reap the fruits of his great perseverance, his zeal, and his talents. In the Session just past there were young men not only from many parts of Scotland and the Borders, but also from the northern districts of England, and even Yorkshire, attending the course. . . . I have said I could wish to see Mr Dick's lecture room savour somewhat less of the forge; and I am sure he will excuse what I say, as it is all intended in fair candour and friendship. But I think if he were to attach a little more importance to external appearance, a little more to effect, it would give the thing greater weight and credit in the public eye.

“You may fancy to yourself a room of no very great dimensions in an old and apparently long untenanted house in Clyde Street. You enter it from the street door, and are immediately struck with the delightful confusion which seems to reign within. Skeletons of all descriptions, ‘from a child's shoe to a jack-boot,’ from a horse to an ape, not ranged in ‘regular order all of a row,’ but standing higgelty-piggelty, their ranks having been broken by the Professor's table, and their heads looking in all directions, as if thrown together by chance. Over the Professor's ‘devoted head’ is seen suspended a portion of inflated and injected intestine, with its mesenteric expansion dangling in the air, something like a lure for flies; whilst all around the room, and especially in the corners, are heaped together vast quantities of diseased bones, and other preparations, seemingly without order, and without arrangement. . . . ‘Of that part of the house’ which is set apart for the audience, the best thing I can say is, that whenever I have dropped in, I have always found



it *remarkably well filled*. It is fitted up with rough deal planks, set upon as rough props; the seats rising tier above tier, until your head touches the top of a very *dark coloured* ceiling.”<sup>1</sup>

It may here be noted that the examination, in which Castley took part, at the end of session 1829-30, was more comprehensive than those that had been held in previous years. The diet extended over two sittings; and the certificate awarded by the Highland Society to the successful candidates was engraved, “as likely to afford greater satisfaction both to the public and to the students themselves, than the manuscript certificate heretofore delivered.”

As we have seen, it was not more than three years after the opening of the very unpretentious school that the need for more extensive accommodation had been felt. Temporary provision was made for the treatment of sick animals by the addition of a stable, which was used as a hospital of sorts. In 1830, therefore, the school apparently consisted of a forge, the temporary hospital, and the lecture-room so graphically, if quaintly, described by Castley in the words just quoted. In 1831, it is complained that the accommodation is scarcely suited to the celebrity of the school. The lecturer's room is not comfortable, the museum—now mentioned for the first time—is small and does not permit of the proper display of specimens, and the want of an infirmary deprives Dick of opportunity for communicating practical knowledge. Consequently,

<sup>1</sup> “Of the Edinburgh Veterinary School” (*The Veterinarian*, 1830, iii., 305-311).



further and more permanent extensions were planned, and in 1833 the new buildings were opened. These consisted of a lecture-room, museum, dissecting-room, infirmary, and forge.<sup>1</sup> The cost amounted to some £2500, the whole of which was borne by Dick himself, with a grant from the Highland Society of £50 towards the fitting of the lecture-room.

With the opening of the new buildings may be counted the emergence of the school from its primitive and embryonic state into a stage of development that gave its equipment a closer semblance to that of an educational institution worthy the name. The appurtenances of the school, with the clinical material afforded by Dick's extensive private practice and his "pauper patients," were now such as to provide the conditions needful to the proper teaching of the prospective veterinary practitioner of that day; and we must, therefore, look upon the year 1833 as marking one of the outstanding and obvious stages in the growth of the Edinburgh veterinary school.

It is not surprising that ere long Dick should see no reason why the London school should continue to have the monopoly in the supply of veterinary surgeons for the Army and the East India Company. He naturally came to regard his school as being in a position to give an efficient training to its students, and the acquisition of the Highland and Agricultural Society's certificate as being guarded by a sufficiently searching examination to entitle its possessors to hold commissions in Services hitherto open only to the

<sup>1</sup> The architects were Messrs Dickson, of Edinburgh.

London graduate. On the first day of 1836, he accordingly addressed a Memorial to the Highland and Agricultural Society praying them to make application to Government for recognition of his graduates, saying that "he would wish that Government be earnestly entreated to make every enquiry into the state and efficiency of the veterinary class as now taught; and he has no doubt, if such an investigation was instituted, the students of the Edinburgh Veterinary School would be found fully qualified to fill any situation connected with their profession." That this was no mere idle boast cannot be questioned, and that the fame of the school had outgrown the confines of Scotland is no less beyond doubt; for of the sixty-four students who attended during the session 1835-36, one came from Lincolnshire, one from London, and one from New York.

The reception of Dick's Memorial led the Highland and Agricultural Society to commission Sir George Ballingall to visit the London school. This he did, and reported to the Veterinary Committee, on the 20th December 1836, that on an average some sixty or seventy students attended the London College annually, and the hospital generally contained about seventy horses. Twelve months' attendance was required in the case of those who wished to present themselves for the diploma, but three months of this was spent in vacation. After consideration of the Ballingall report, the Committee expressed themselves as being "of the opinion that the course of study and the advantages to the students in the Edinburgh



school if not superior are at least equal to those of the London College. The attendance for two sessions at the former affords greater facilities than the nine months' attendance at the latter." It was also pointed out that, in Edinburgh, the veterinary student had the opportunity—and availed himself of it—of attending University and other medical classes.<sup>1</sup>

Thanks to the good offices of the Duke of Sutherland, then President of the Highland and Agricultural Society, Edinburgh graduates became eligible for appointment as veterinary surgeons in Her Majesty's Army and in the service of the Honourable East India Company. It was not, however, until 1839, and after a Memorial from Dick to the Commander-in-Chief (Lord Hill) complaining of unfairness in the examination of candidates, that a graduate of the Edinburgh school (James Robertson) was nominated "to do duty with the King's Dragoon Guards and 5th Hussars, provided he shall be reported qualified by the Principal Veterinary Surgeon,"<sup>2</sup> and received the appointment.

While the report made by Sir George Ballingall enables us to compare, in certain matters, the sixteen-

<sup>1</sup> This is a frank official admission of the debt the veterinary school owed to the Edinburgh medical school. From its very inception, the students of the veterinary school had been admitted to medical classes; and the Minute Books of the Highland and Agricultural Society show that in 1830-31 they were at liberty to attend the lectures on Surgery (Robert Liston), Practice of Physic (M'Intosh), Materia Medica (Thomas Aitken), and Comparative Anatomy (J. W. Jones). Robert Knox—of Burke and Hare association—had apparently admitted veterinary students from the time when he succeeded John Barclay as extramural lecturer on Anatomy.

<sup>2</sup> Letter from Lord Fitzroy Somerset to Lord Rosslyn, dated "Horse Guards, 26th September 1839."



year-old Scottish school with the older institution in London, there can be no better indication of the extraordinary and rapid growth of the Edinburgh veterinary school than the remarkable and steady increase in the number of students attending Dick's classes. As we have seen, his first class under the patronage of the Highland Society contained twenty-five students. In the session 1824-25 the number was ten; in 1829-30 it was twenty-six; in 1832-33 it had reached fifty; in 1835-36 it was sixty-four; and Dick states that the number of students attending the school in 1838-39 was one hundred and one. And not only did their numbers increase: the places from which they were attracted became of ever wider geographical extent. In 1836, Dick was able to claim, with pardonable pride, that "students are now in the habit of resorting to the Edinburgh Veterinary School from all parts of Great Britain and Ireland (even from London), and also from America." We may also regard it as another sign of progress that, in 1839, as a consequence of a petition signed by the students, the titles of "College" and "Professor" were conferred upon the school and the lecturer.

In this year, too, Dick's former pupils, desiring to mark their appreciation of "his unwearied exertions for the promotion of veterinary science in Scotland," subscribed for a piece of plate, which was presented to him on the 26th April, at the dinner that for many years was held after the examinations at the end of the session.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> By his will, Dick bequeathed this piece of plate (an epergne), along with a silver claret jug and a silver coffee-pot, to the College "for the use of the Principal for the time being." (See Plate facing p. 52.)

## IV

IN the history of veterinary education and science in this country, the granting of a Royal Charter, by which the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons came into existence on the 8th day of March 1844, is naturally to be regarded as of pre-eminent moment. The Charter sets forth that whereas certain of “our loving subjects,” including “William Dick, of Edinburgh, in that part of Great Britain called Scotland, Veterinary Surgeon,” have—

“By their Petition, humbly represented unto us, that the Royal Veterinary College of London, and the Veterinary College of Edinburgh, have been established for many years for the education of students of the veterinary art, . . . that nearly one thousand members, who have been graduated at the Veterinary Colleges of London and Edinburgh, are now practising as veterinary surgeons in our dominions, and that their practice, under the blessing of Divine Providence, tends greatly to the alleviation of the sufferings of those animals confided to their care; That the veterinary art is not recognised by law as a profession; . . . our said Petitioners . . . have humbly prayed that we should grant to them, and to such other persons as now are certificated members of the Royal Veterinary College of London, or of the Veterinary College of Edinburgh,



our Royal Charter of Incorporation, that they might from henceforth be one body politic and corporate, with such rights, powers, privileges, franchises, and immunities, as are hereinafter expressed, and that the veterinary art might henceforth be recognised by law as a profession."

The Charter gave the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons a constitution and conferred upon its Council the power to fix and determine "the time and places and manner of examining students who shall have been educated at the Royal Veterinary College of London, or the Veterinary College of Edinburgh, or such other veterinary colleges as hereinbefore mentioned, and who may be desirous to become members of the said body politic and corporate, and for regulating the nature and extent of such examinations, and for the appointment of persons to examine and determine upon the fitness and qualifications of such students, and for the admission or rejection of such students as members of the said body politic and corporate." In short, a corporate profession was founded, and into it students of the London and Edinburgh Colleges had equal right of entry.

When the whole of the 1844 Charter is read with care, it is not difficult to understand wherein Dick had grounds for disturbing the harmony of the first General Meeting of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons by protesting that certain clauses had been introduced into the Charter, while others had been omitted, without his knowledge and consent. That he did not, however, hold these intrusions and omissions as of vital



importance is shown by the fact that, at the same meeting, he permitted himself to be elected to the Council, at which he occupied a seat until 1851.

It appears that in signing the Petition for a Royal Charter, Dick had taken an undiplomatic step, inasmuch as he had done so without the knowledge of the Highland and Agricultural Society. This is surprising and altogether unexpected, for it is scarcely possible for him not to have foreseen that the Society would regard the terms of the Charter as an encroachment on their privileges. As a matter of fact, the Society remonstrated with the Government against the sole right to grant diplomas being conferred upon the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons; but with no effect. "While the Government were aware that a wrong had been done to the profession in Scotland, they declined to revoke the Charter."

Presumably under protest, therefore, for about three years the Highland and Agricultural Society suspended the granting of their veterinary certificate.

It is interesting to note that the first examination conducted by the six-weeks-old Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons was held in Edinburgh on the 23rd April 1844, the Examining Board consisting of medical men and veterinary surgeons. A deputation of three was sent by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons to be present at the examination and report thereon to the Council.

It is unfortunate that the report of the deputation contained aspersions that led to much friction, and had the effect of producing an unhappy delay in the

unification of the veterinary qualification to practise. Dick was incensed by certain parts of the report that he held embodied unjust and unfair criticism. At this distance of time, we can view the report dispassionately, and can only regret that the deputation did not consider it possible to regard the examination as satisfactory. It may also be permitted to doubt if they were wise in introducing matter that was not strictly relevant. The portion of the report to which Dick took exception was that in which it was alleged "that there was no examination on Chemistry, none on Materia Medica, none on Physiology, and none on the diseases of cattle that deserved the name." It was also stated that veterinary surgeons in Glasgow had called a meeting of the profession in Scotland to take into consideration the grievous state of veterinary education in the North. Here was ample justification for the indignation of Dick, who was never slow to do battle for the reputation and rights of his College, by whomsoever attacked.

Controversy raged fiercely for a time ; the Edinburgh side of the difference being vigorously supported by several writers in addition to Dick himself. To review all that was written and said would serve no good purpose now, and the most charitable conclusion we can arrive at is that the London deputation was perhaps a little too zealous, and possibly also a little too impressed with the newly acquired power and dignity conferred upon the Council of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons by Royal Charter. It is conceivable that, in the long run, the controversy did good, and not harm.



That considerable patience was exercised by Dick is shown by the fact that it was not until 1848 that it was deemed expedient for the Highland and Agricultural Society to return to their former practice of granting veterinary certificates. This, naturally, gave rise to comment in the next Annual Report (1849) of the Council of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, in which it was stated "that last year an attempt was made by the London and Edinburgh schools to evade the scrutiny instituted by the Board of Examiners of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, by setting up spurious Boards of their own." Not a particularly happy phraseology in which to describe the return to a method that had been followed with entirely satisfactory results for many years before the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons came into being. It is interesting to observe that Dick was not the only malcontent, for the London school was coupled with the Edinburgh school in the charge.<sup>1</sup>

Apparently, the dissatisfaction of the London College was quickly overcome. In Edinburgh, however, were men less easily satisfied; their geographical position possibly contributing to retain them among the dissenters.

It is not a matter for surprise that the Council of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, being, in a manner, set at defiance, should seek to debar the

<sup>1</sup> In 1847, the Governors of the Royal Veterinary College, London, and the President and Directors of the Highland and Agricultural Society, sent a Petition to Sir George Grey, Secretary of State for the Home Department, praying for a new Charter "in which the Institutions over which they have the honour to preside may be represented."



holders of the Highland and Agricultural Society's certificate from obtaining appointments in the Army and the Honourable East India Company. The authorities, however, fortunately saw no reason why the Edinburgh graduates should be penalised.

The attitude of the Edinburgh school will be more readily understood if it is remembered that, at this time and for many years afterwards, the veterinary practitioner of Scotland was less fortunately situated than his professional brother in England. In Scotland professional fees in themselves did not suffice to afford a living. The work of the veterinary surgeon was, therefore, perforce combined with the work of the forge. Veterinary students, consequently, were drawn from a class of people with whom money was none too plentiful. As a result, the certificate of the Highland and Agricultural Society, which cost two guineas only, had an appealing quality that was absent from the diploma of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. Apart from monetary considerations, the Scottish certificate had the merit of being an institution of many years' standing and carried a well-known and recognised value; whereas the diploma of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons was a recent and comparatively untried introduction. What wonder, then, that Dick's students preferred the possession of the Highland and Agricultural Society's certificate. This preference continued even after Dick's death, and we are told that as late as 1870, or even later, the Edinburgh student as a matter of course sought the Scottish certificate with no very special anxiety as to

the result of his examination for the diploma of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

It is impossible to avoid the conclusion that the Council of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons would have been wise had they at first assumed a more conciliatory attitude towards Dick and his supporters. Much of the unfortunate friction might have been avoided had there been a strong man in the Council of the Royal College who could have applied a judicious anodyne to the temper of his colleagues, who were apparently actuated by a resentment that fed on the conception of a slighted dignity.

In fairness to the Council of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, it must be recorded that some of them, evidently fully realising that there was at least some reason in the position assumed by Dick and the Highland and Agricultural Society, were anxious to adjust differences. At a special meeting of the Council held on 22nd August 1855, it was decided that the examination fee should be reduced from ten guineas to seven; that the Board of Examiners for Edinburgh should be remodelled, Dick being consulted as to the new appointments; that steps should be taken to admit into the body corporate those persons who had previously passed Dick's Board, or, as it was stated to be, the Board appointed by the Highland and Agricultural Society, but who had not received the diploma of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. Evidently this offer of reconciliation did not tempt Dick, for nothing came of it.

Matters continued in an unsatisfactory state for



many years, and the Highland and Agricultural Society went so far (in 1876) as to apply to the Privy Council for a Charter conferring upon them powers to grant a regularised veterinary diploma. In 1879, however, when the Society had granted certificates to 1127 veterinary surgeons, a definite settlement of the differences was reached. Holders of the Society's certificate were admitted to membership of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, and the Society undertook to cease holding veterinary examinations after April 1881.

There is only one other occurrence to record as disturbing the even and steady evolution of the Edinburgh veterinary school during the lifetime of the Founder. In 1857, John Gamgee, who had been engaged by Dick as his assistant for one year, and whose engagement was not renewed at the end of that time, determined to establish a veterinary school in Edinburgh in opposition to the Clyde Street College. A Memorial was presented to the Home Secretary on his behalf, praying that attendance on his classes should be recognised as sufficient to enable a student to present himself for the diploma of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. The Memorial was referred to the Highland and Agricultural Society, who decided against the affiliation prayed for, assigning as one of their reasons that they were—

“Decidedly of opinion that in Scotland there is no room for two schools, and that the supply of students is inadequate to support more than one with efficiency and advantage to the veterinary profession and the



public." They go on to say that "the only legitimate grounds on which a new college could be recognised would be the inefficiency of the existing institution, and the necessity for supplying its deficiencies. But, so far from this being the case, the Directors can assure the Government that the Edinburgh Veterinary College amply meets the calls and discharges the duties devolving upon it, and that Professor Dick, its founder and head, has no ordinary claim on public support. By his energy, perseverance and liberality, he has, single-handed, and at a personal outlay of about ten thousand pounds, founded the institution, provided class-rooms, library, museum, forge, etc., maintained a staff of assistant lecturers on Anatomy, Physiology, Materia Medica, and Chemistry, and sent forth nearly six hundred veterinarians found qualified to practise their art after a stringent examination."

Nevertheless, in 1859, Gamgee received a Warrant bearing the Sign Manual of Her Majesty for the recognition of the New Veterinary College. He held his classes in Drummond Street, and it was proposed to erect a set of buildings at a cost of about £10,000. Though Gamgee was able, even brilliant, his scheme was foredoomed to failure. His school continued for some years (until 1865) and was then transferred to London, where it ultimately ceased to exist.

On cattle-plague breaking out in this country in 1865, Dick was asked by the Directors of the Highland and Agricultural Society to go to London and study cases of the disease in that city. The exertion attendant upon the journey, combined with the anxiety and labour that came in the train of the epidemic,

proved too much for one whose strength was already sapped by heart disease. Those about him had long watched with deep sorrow the gradual failure of him they held in affectionate regard, and to them it was evident that the end was not far distant. On the 4th day of April 1866, in his 73rd year, William Dick died, and was laid to rest in the New Calton Burial Ground.

## V

IN William Dick the physical and the inner man were in perfect accord. Five feet seven or thereby in height ; strongly even rudely built, but very active withal ; with a massive and rugged head and a face denoting firm purpose and indomitable will—such, in brief, was the physical man. And all the actions of his life prove that the inner man was consonant with the physical frame.

Setting aside for the moment home-life and parental influence, which we are entitled to think were all for good, we cannot forget that the early surroundings of the boy were, to say the least, of the humblest. His companions, if chosen from those immediately about him, can scarcely have been inspiring ; and, his schooldays over, his hard labour at the anvil might have been a reasonable excuse for relaxation of a frivolous character when the day's work was done. Without wishing to hold that William Dick was a paragon of all the virtues—he was certainly very human, and had human weaknesses—it is abundantly evident that he read, thought, and dreamed of what the future might be made to yield, what time others, similarly placed, would have spent their hours of leisure in idle if not vicious amusements.



His steadfast and sturdy determination is revealed in the work he was able to accomplish under conditions, and in the face of difficulties, that would have discouraged and dismayed most young men. At the beginning of the nineteenth century, veterinary science in this country was in so primordial a state that it is scarcely possible to convey an adequate idea of its condition. The foundation of a veterinary school in London had produced some effect in the southern part of the Kingdom; but had influenced Scotland hardly at all. The expense of travelling to London and the cost of living there for the greater part of a year, combined with the sufficiently heavy class fees, acted as a deterrent to those who would otherwise have been willing to become veterinary surgeons, but lacked the means. Dick himself has stated that there was not a dozen veterinary practitioners in the whole of Scotland at the time when he began seriously to ponder the possibility of establishing a veterinary school. At that time, the treatment of sick animals was, in the main, in the hands of those with no better claim to the office than that conferred upon them by a superb effrontery and self-assurance cloaking profound and gross ignorance. There were some, without question, like John Dick, who, from long contact with animals and the intelligent application of experience, were capable of doing much good. But these were in a minority, and against them must be set a host of charlatans, sometimes sustained by a belief in witchcraft and sometimes the proud possessors of a book of infallible prescriptions, but always labouring under the disadvantage of knowing

nothing of the diseases they presumed to treat or the structure of the animals that lay at their mercy.

No veterinary school nearer than London; a mere handful of veterinary surgeons in Scotland; little, if any, public regard for the value of veterinary science—these were the conditions that confronted Dick at the outset.<sup>1</sup> His was the task to initiate and foster the evolution of the Scottish veterinary surgeon from the more intelligent working blacksmith; and in little more than forty years he was instrumental—for long single-handed—in producing over eight hundred trained veterinary practitioners.

Save for the possession of a courage that nothing could dismay and a conviction that his was a calling to a special task, he started with no native advantages. His early education was doubtless sound, so far as it went, but it is safe to say that it would not compare in any way favourably with that offered to the boy of to-day in a similar social position. His real education depended almost solely on his personal inclination and effort. In creating his school he started from the very beginning, with a financial backing of the flimsiest and equipment of the most primitive and simple kind. He did not even possess a lecture-room of his own, but had to hire one at some distance from his father's forge, which, in its turn, was the only facility for practical instruction. After the removal of his lectures from

<sup>1</sup> Even in the more favoured southern part of the Kingdom, the position of the veterinary surgeon was far from satisfactory. The pages of *The Veterinarian* for the years 1830 and 1831 show that much dissatisfaction was felt, even then, by the better class veterinary surgeon at the social standing and education of those who formed the bulk of the profession.



the Calton Convening Rooms, he had to be satisfied with an "old and apparently long untenanted house in Clyde Street," where the seats of his lecture-room consisted of rough planks supported on as rough props. And yet his school grew, little by little, into a College that cost him, in all, something like £10,000.

For the sake of comparison with the description as given by Castley in 1830, on the one hand, and the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College of the present day, on the other, it may be interesting to interpolate here a brief account of the Clyde Street school as it was at the time of Dick's death.

The buildings occupied the same space and were disposed in the same manner as those which formed the home of the College up to 1916. That is, they were arranged around the four sides of an oblong "yard." The entrance to the yard from Clyde Street was by an archway, flanked on the right by dwelling-houses, and on the left by a small surgery with Dick's office beyond. Over the archway, surgery and office, was the dwelling of Dick and his sister. The ground floor of the buildings on the west side of the yard consisted of stables and loose-boxes, above which were the museum—connected with Dick's dining-room by a door—the lecture-room and a small library. Entrance to the lecture-room was gained by a stair leading from the north-west corner of the yard. On entering the yard from the street, one found the forge on the right, and, above this, the dissecting-room reached by an outside stair. Beyond the forge and dissecting-room was a house occupied for many years by Dick's loyal





MASON  
TROTTER.

OLD COLLEGE BUILDINGS.



and faithful clinical assistant, William Worthington. The fourth, or northern boundary of the yard was formed by a chemical laboratory and a hall, the latter being used for examinations and let for public meetings and the meetings of a religious body.

Such, in brief, was the concrete manifestation of the results of forty-three years of endeavour; and it may be permitted us to regard the edifice that Dick had erected in Edinburgh as symbolic of the profession he had laboured so earnestly to develop in Scotland.

That Dick's professional skill and ability bore him head and shoulders above all his contemporaries, is claimed by all who can speak with knowledge; and is further demonstrated by the circumstance that he held the distinguished position of Veterinary Surgeon to the Queen in Scotland. The assertion that, sitting in his room upstairs, he was able to diagnose the seat of lameness in a horse trotting in the street below, is scarcely likely to obtain credence. Nevertheless, that such belief was current among his students makes us realise, in a manner denied to the narration of unembroidered fact, how high was his reputation as a clinical expert in the detection of one of the most important defects to which the horse is liable. His fame as a veterinary authority was not parochial. His opinion was sought throughout Scotland and England, and even in London. In law-suits, his was the final word.

That Dick's practice was extensive, and that his advice was eagerly sought by his former pupils, both professional and non-professional, is abundantly evident. And that the advice, when given, was sound and



worthy and profitable to be followed, is no less beyond question. That his professional vision was clear and penetrating, and that it quickly detected fallacies, is obvious from the papers on professional subjects, unhappily all too few, that he managed to write in the scanty time snatched from a crowded day.

As befitted the man's character, Dick, the veterinary surgeon, had no use for half-digested and unassimilated, perhaps unassimilable, theory. Hard facts he sought; and hard facts he stored in his memory for use when occasion arose. Severe critics may accuse him of lapses into empiricism; and possibly there are grounds for the accusation. But, all things considered, it is remarkable that so little empiricism went to his professional equipment. A man not possessed of any great amount of general culture, with a professional training consisting of three months' attendance at a veterinary school, leavened by some lectures in a medical school, may be forgiven for occasional adherence to dogma, and claims admiration for attainments for which he owed little but to his native wit and self-education.<sup>1</sup>

Those who knew him have said that Dick, as a teacher, had not a ready command of language; but what he said was informed with wisdom acquired by

<sup>1</sup> How much Dick knew of Continental veterinary teaching is uncertain; but that he must have had *some* knowledge of the foreign veterinary schools is beyond much doubt. We know, for instance, that, in 1830, he received information from a correspondent regarding the veterinary school in Utrecht. This, and possibly other letters of a similar nature, may have had an influence upon him in determining the character of the school he should aim at developing in Edinburgh. From the pages of *The Veterinarian*, also, he cannot have failed to acquire knowledge of the methods of foreign veterinary teaching and science.

years of diligent observation. From the moment he entered his lecture-room, running his fingers through his hair as was his habit, he rivetted the attention of his class. Describing a diseased bone or other pathological specimen, however haltingly the words might come, they were so chosen that, helped out by appropriate pantomimic gesture, they conjured up a vivid picture of the animal in life from which the specimen had been obtained.

He was a strict disciplinarian. A master in the use of sarcasm and ridicule, he showed no mercy to the idle. At the same time, he never failed to bestow kindly praise and encouragement wherever it was deserved. He has been described by one of his old students as, at one and the same time, abrupt and rough and courteous and gentlemanly. His personal magnetism and the unstinted manner in which he was always ready to render help, won the respect and undying admiration—nay, affection—of his students.

He received many testimonials of the regard in which he was held as a man, a teacher, and a very present help in the then much needed advancement of veterinary science. One of the last of these was a marble bust of himself that, in 1857, was presented to him by his old pupils and other members of the veterinary profession.<sup>1</sup>

His reports and published papers show that,

<sup>1</sup> The pedestal supporting the bust bears the following inscription:—  
“Presented to Professor Dick, Founder of the Edinburgh Veterinary College, by the subscribers, his old pupils, and other members of the veterinary profession in the United Kingdom, in testimony of their high opinion of the eminent services rendered by him to veterinary science. 1857.”

## INSCRIPTIONS ON THE COLLEGE PLATE.

**On the Epergne.**

“Presented to Professor Dick, Founder of the Edinburgh Veterinary College, by a number of his pupils, to testify their high sense of his scientific merits, his public spirit, and his private worth, as also in token of their heartfelt gratitude for the deep interest he has ever taken in their individual welfare, not only as regards their professional acquirements, but likewise in respect of their establishment in after life. 1839.”

**On the Coffee-pot.**

“Presented by the Royal Physical Society to William Dick, Esquire, as an expression of esteem for him as a man, and of gratitude for his valuable services during a period of fifteen years as the Society’s Honorary Treasurer. Edinburgh, 16th April 1851.”

**On the Claret Jug.**

“Presented by Captain W. R. Ramsay to the Barnton Squadron, Royal Midlothian Yeomanry Cavalry, in addition to a sweepstake, to be shot for by the members from horseback with pistols—targets, 20 yards ; 30 subscribers ; and won by Mr William Dick. 22nd July 1831.”





THE COLLEGE PLATE



however, inexpert he may have been in the use of the spoken word, he was a lucid, and, did occasion require it, a trenchant writer. In 1833, he became one of the editors of *The Veterinarian*, and continued to act in this capacity until 1845. During this period he contributed frequent clinical papers and reports to its pages, but after 1845 his contributions ceased. Other Articles by him appeared in the *Transactions of the Highland and Agricultural Society* and the *Quarterly Journal of Agriculture*. After his death the more important of his contributions were collected into one volume (*Occasional Papers on Veterinary Subjects*, with a Memoir by R. O. Pringle. Edinburgh and London: William Blackwood & Sons, 1869), in which was included an unpublished paper on "What Influence has the Mind in the Modification and Cure of Diseases of the Body?" read before the Royal Physical Society of Edinburgh in February 1836. He also wrote the section on Veterinary Art in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, which was afterwards republished as a *Manual of Veterinary Science*.

Though the advancement of veterinary science was Dick's supreme ruling passion, he was not without a catholicity of interest in scientific matters generally. For many years he was a member of the Royal Physical Society of Edinburgh—the oldest scientific society in Scotland—for which he acted for fifteen years as honorary treasurer with such acceptance that, on his retirement from the office, his fellow members marked their appreciation of his services by presenting him with a piece of plate.



As a citizen, Dick took an active part in the affairs of several public bodies. From 1835 to 1837, while Deacon of the Hammermen, he was Deacon-Convener of Trades, and, as such, was entitled to a seat on the Town Council. In 1843 and 1844 he was Dean of Guild, and by virtue of the office was a member of the Town Council.

At a public banquet given in his honour in 1839, the chairman referred to his unwearied labours to make Heriot's Hospital what it was intended to be—a place of education for the children of decayed freemen—and alluded to the manner in which he had devoted himself to the accomplishment of all the kindly purposes of Morningside Lunatic Asylum. He was also a Justice of the Peace for the City of Edinburgh; and, for a term, held the office of Moderator of the High Constables.

How he was regarded by his fellow citizens can perhaps be best shown by a short extract from the obituary notice that appeared in the issue of the *Scotsman* for 6th April 1866:—

“Mr Dick was a man of strong natural abilities and in his own profession of great acquirements and experience. In political and ecclesiastical matters his views were somewhat extreme and always expressed with no reserve and some roughness. He did not know fear and had neither time nor skill for the mincing of words. But he was so honest, so truthful, so good-natured and so free from self-seeking that he had almost no enemies and hearty friends everywhere. The figure and the name of ‘Willie Dick’ were long and conspicuously among us and for long too he will be missed and mourned.”

The obituary notice in the issue of the *North British Agriculturist* for 11th April 1866 is also illuminating in this respect :—

“His opinions on political matters were in advance of his time, and were always freely expressed. Those who differed from him respected his bold and uncompromising advocacy of the people’s rights. He was stern and somewhat unbending but always self-reliant, but was usually attentive to the arguments of those who differed from him in opinion. But his position once taken, reasoning could rarely divert him from his opinions or purpose. No one who has ever trod the streets of Edinburgh was in purpose more honest, or in spirit more independent than William Dick.”

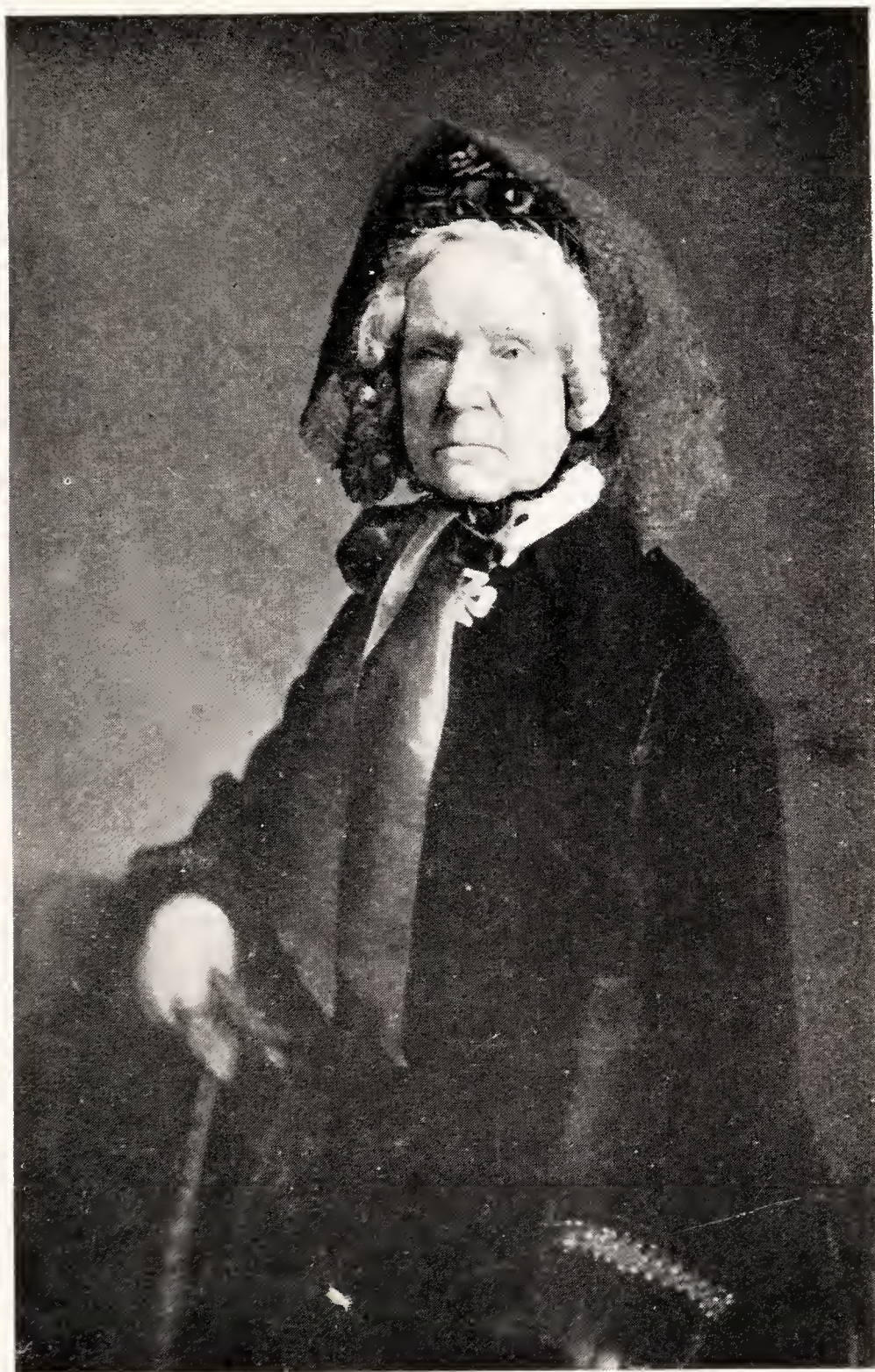
William Dick never married. At one time he aspired to the hand of the daughter of a wealthy banker; but then he was a young man of no social standing and of few worldly possessions. Parental disapproval and denial, however, could not prevent his holding the lady in affectionate and respectful esteem to the end, and it is stated that to her was addressed one of the last letters he ever wrote.

## VI

ANY account, however brief, of the growth of the Edinburgh veterinary school that contained no appreciation of Mary Dick, would be signally incomplete. Between the brother and sister, and from their earliest days, there was a reciprocal and ever-deepening affection. Mary, born two years before her brother, sustained to perfection the rôle of self-effacing and self-sacrificing elder sister. In her brother, her life was centred: of him, his achievements and his fame, she was proud to the last degree. From the birth of the first uncertain glimmerings of William's scheme for the foundation of a veterinary school, to the full fruition of his plans, Mary encouraged, sympathised, consoled, rejoiced. To her the school owes a great and enduring debt of gratitude; for now, when the passage of time permits of a proper perspective, we are left in no doubt that, though William was the originator of the scheme and the main and acclaimed founder of the school, the school was really the creation of William and Mary.

Mary Dick was a most energetic and business-like woman. She it was who kept the accounts relating to the College, and it was her watchful eye that prevented those financial leakages that are not unknown in the





MARY DICK





affairs of professional men. Dick himself was apparently none too careful in money matters, and it was well, therefore, for the future of the school that there was someone to keep strict guard over incomings and outgoings. Mary Dick, austere and calvinistic, was also general censor of the manners and morals of the students, and before her had to appear, much to their embarrassment, all delinquents—there were few misdemeanours that escaped detection, and no detected culprits who escaped reproof. Nevertheless, she was held in sincere respect and affectionate regard by all over whom she exercised her despotic but kindly rule. Former students were her constant and regular correspondents. They frequently sent her newspapers that contained personal paragraphs; and these, it is said, she declined to have destroyed, but kept in a pile under her bed.

We gather that Miss Dick's ideas of the value of fresh air were far from such as would meet with the approval of the modern sanitarian. The massive pile of newspapers, the accumulation of years, was bad enough; but we are told that her bed was in a very small room, the window of which was as nearly hermetically sealed as was humanly possible. Should anyone be so indiscreet as to suggest the necessity for ventilation, she would retort: "Fresh air! What for do you want fresh air? Look at me." And, looking at her, it would be difficult to pursue the argument. There was nothing weakly or sickly about Mary Dick.

The Dick family, as we have seen, moved into the house in Clyde Street in 1815, and there died William's



brother John in 1821, his mother in 1837, and his father in 1844. For the next twenty-two years William and Mary lived there alone. On the death of her brother in 1866, Mary Dick removed to Burntisland, where a considerable amount of property had been acquired.<sup>1</sup> From there she could no longer keep the same close watch over the College and its inmates; but she did not abate one jot of her interest in her brother's school. For some years, at least, she expected the Principal to visit her every Sunday, and partake of the midday meal with her. To the same meal was also sometimes invited one Charlie Craig—a character well known to the students of the late '60s and the early '70s—whose humble function was to keep the stables and the dissecting-room clean!<sup>2</sup> Thus she was in a position to know all of moment that occurred in Clyde Street. Indeed, from her letters to the Trustees of her late brother, it appears likely that she had also other sources of information. Her knowledge was intimate and peculiar. The Trustees were frequently reminded of her existence, and, on occasion, her comments could be couched in terms that left little doubt of the state of her feelings. She was not a little incensed at the action of Williams when he set up an opposition school; and, on 1st December 1873, she wrote to the Trustees suggesting that, as a New Veterinary College had been established in Edinburgh, the Clyde Street school should in future be known as

<sup>1</sup> Report had it, with what foundation in truth cannot be said, that Dick purchased the Burntisland property with the fees that he earned before breakfast!

<sup>2</sup> Mary Dick was no snob.

“The Dick Veterinary College.”<sup>1</sup> To this the Trustees agreed.

Mary Dick died at Burntisland on 14th July 1883, at the ripe age of ninety-two, and was buried by the side of her brother in the New Calton Burying Ground.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The title “Royal” was apparently assumed in 1874.

<sup>2</sup> My colleague, Professor J. Russell Greig, points out how aptly the following lines by Robert Louis Stevenson may be applied to Mary Dick.

“Honour, anger, valour, fire ;  
A love that life could never tire,  
Death quench or evil stir,  
The mighty master  
Gave to her.”

## VII

ON his death, William Dick left the whole of his estate in trust, the revenue to be applied towards maintaining in efficiency the College he had founded and established. By his Trust Disposition and Settlement, he appointed the Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Council of the City of Edinburgh his Trustees.

One of the first duties of the Trustees was to make arrangements for carrying on the routine instruction of the students during the session 1866-67. It was also necessary that they should appoint a head, or Principal of the College, and to this office they called J. H. B. Hallen, who had served as Principal Veterinary Surgeon in Her Majesty's Bombay Army.

As 1866 is one of the outstanding dates in the history of the College, it is not out of place to note the subjects of the curriculum of that day, and the members of the staff who were responsible for the instruction of the students.

What was at that time called Hippopathology—by which was meant the consideration of the diseases, both medical and surgical, of the horse—was taught by Principal Hallen, as successor to William Dick. Hallen, assisted by William Worthington, was responsible also for clinical instruction. Thomas Strangeways—a name





J. H. B. HALLEN, C.I.E., Principal 1866-1867

[Face p. 60]





deserving of all reverence and honour—was teacher of two subjects, namely, Anatomy and Cattle Pathology. Allan Dalzell taught Chemistry, Practical Chemistry and Materia Medica ; and Peter Young was teacher of Physiology. In these days of high specialisation and large staffs, we may be inclined to regard this body of teachers as a small one, but in reality it compared very favourably in numbers with the staffs of similar institutions of that day ; and what it may have lacked in numbers it more than made up for in efficiency and loyalty. Strangeways, Dalzell, Young and Worthington had all been appointed by Dick himself, and had worked with him for many years. Their lives had, therefore, been woven into the fabric of the life of the College, and coloured by deep respect and affection for their chief. They sincerely mourned their departed counsellor, leader and friend, and looked upon the prosperity of his school as having been left in their care as a solemn trust. During Hallen's short tenure of the Principalship, consequently, there was no disturbance of the smooth and harmonious progress of the work of the College. But Hallen was recalled to India in 1867 ; and during the same year William Worthington went into well-earned retirement.

On the 4th May 1876, a Sub-Committee of the Lord Provost's Committee "unanimously resolved to recommend William Williams, M.R.C.V.S., residing at Horton Road, Bradford, to the vacant office of Principal of the Veterinary College, and Professor of Pathology therein" ; and on the 21st of the same month the appointment was confirmed.

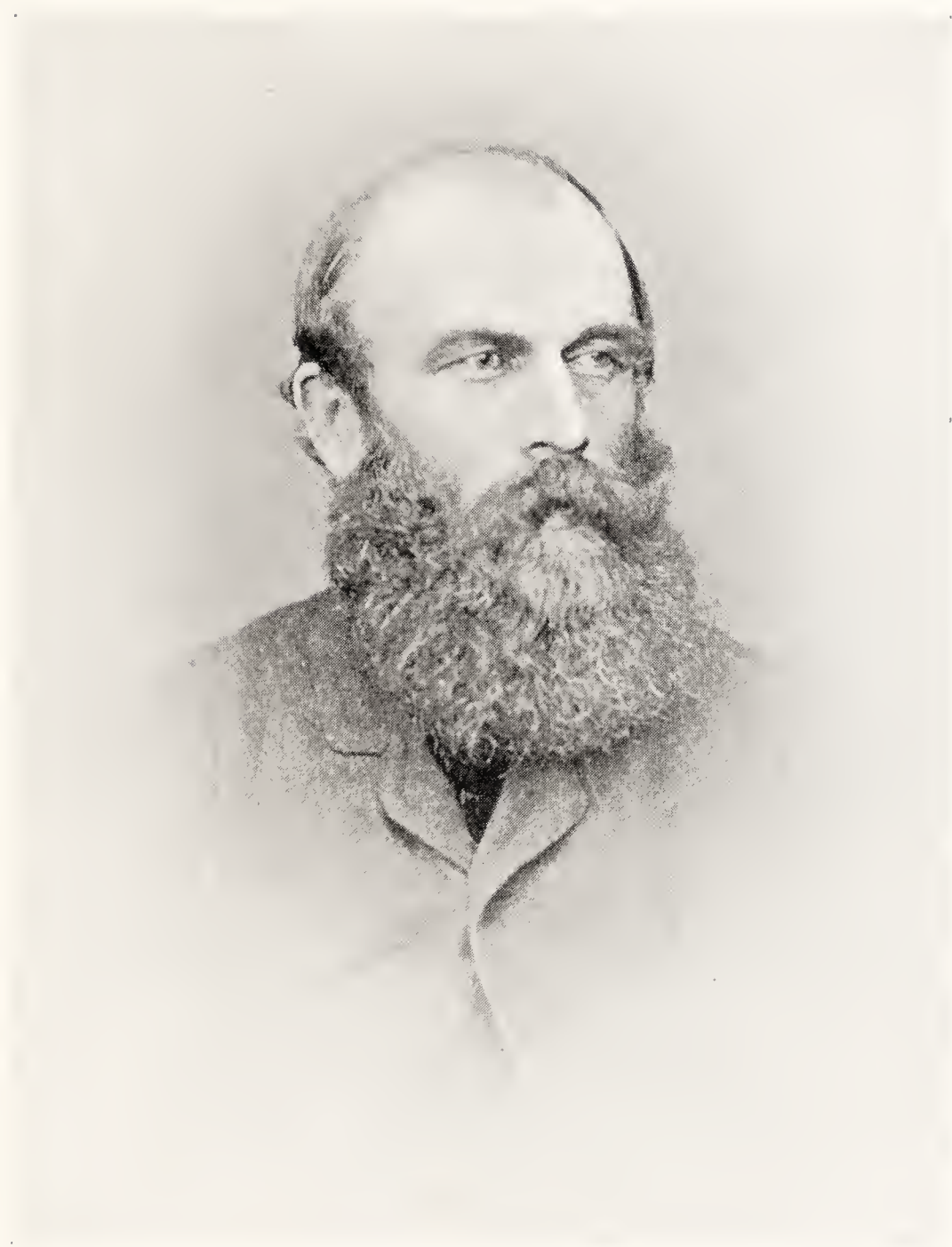


Though her feelings towards Williams were to suffer a change as time went on, Mary Dick heartily approved the selection ; mainly, it is gathered, because the new Principal, while a student, had attracted the appreciative notice of her brother.<sup>1</sup>

In the same year another change took place in the staff. It was determined, by arrangement with the Highland and Agricultural Society, that a separate teacher should be appointed for the subject of Cattle Pathology ; and J. A. M'Bride was selected by the Society. The result of the selection was not a happy one ; and, indeed, the appointment has all the appearance of irregularity, for M'Bride had been one of the pupils of John Gamgee, who, by a special clause in the codicil to Dick's will, were debarred from "holding any situation whatever in or connected with the College." Apart altogether from any irregularity there may have been in the appointment, it led to friction. At the end of the first session, the Principal reported that the new teacher had had trouble with his class ; and the trouble evidently continued, for in 1869 William Edwin Duns was elected teacher of Cattle Pathology.

In February 1869, also, the College sustained a severe loss in the death of one who had added no little lustre to the fame of the Edinburgh school. Thomas Strangeways, teacher of Anatomy since 1856, died and left a blank that proved difficult to fill. His death led

<sup>1</sup> As indicating her concurrence with the selection, we may note that, about this time, Miss Dick offered two Bursaries of £30 each, tenable for three years, to be competed for by the students of the College. Andrew Spreull, Senior, now of Dundee, gained the first Bursary.



THOMAS STRANGEWAYS, LL.D.  
Professor of Anatomy 1856-1869





to a series of changes and unfortunate circumstances that kept the domestic affairs of the College in a disturbed state for several years; though, fortunately, judging from the number of students in attendance, they did not impair its reputation as a teaching institution.

Among the applicants for the Chair of Anatomy rendered vacant by the death of Strangeways, were Ramsay H. Traquair, afterwards Director of the Natural History Department of the Royal Scottish Museum, and William C. Branford. The selection of the Trustees fell upon the latter, who assumed the duties of the appointment at the beginning of session 1869-70. In view of what followed, it may be well to depart from strict historic sequence, and note that in 1874 Branford was appointed Professor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery, an appointment that he held until 1876, when he resigned the Chair on being sent by the Government to investigate diseases in South Africa. This seems to be sufficient proof that he was not the incompetent teacher that unfortunate events in 1870 would lead the uninformed to suppose; and that the Trustees came to recognise that their action in that year had possibly been mistaken.

However this may be, it is unhappily true that Branford fell foul of his students during his first year as teacher of Anatomy, and unseemly occurrences led to an official enquiry that was anything but brief. It may be regarded as significant that James (afterwards Sir James) Dewar, then Professor of Chemistry in the College, championed Branford's cause, as did also Miss Dick. Nevertheless, the result of the enquiry was that

Branford's appointment was recalled and cancelled in November 1870.

The death, early in 1871, of William E. Duns, who had been appointed Professor of Cattle Pathology as recently as 1869, created another vacancy that had to be filled. After some delay, on 19th September 1871 the Trustees elected Dr George A. Davidson, M.A., Edinburgh, to be Professor of Anatomy, and Thomas Walley, M.R.C.V.S., Manchester, to be Professor of Cattle Pathology. Thus entered on the Clyde Street stage one who was, a little later, to support an honourable rôle honourably for twenty years.

For the next eighteen months, outwardly at least, there were no happenings that demand special mention, except that the institution of two professional examinations (instead of one as formerly) by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, and the inclusion of Botany in the first of these, rendered necessary provision for the teaching of this subject. Arrangements were accordingly made with Professor J. Hutton Balfour, by which the College students were permitted to attend classes at the Botanic Gardens.

In March 1873, Dr Davidson died, and once more the ill-fated subject of Anatomy was without a regular teacher. In April, John Murie, M.D., of Middlesex Hospital, was elected Professor, and again differences arose between the Professor of Anatomy, the students and the Principal—differences, this time, that were to lead to serious effects ; disruptive so far as the College was concerned, and difficult of definition so far as they affected the veterinary profession as a whole.





WILLIAM WILLIAMS, Principal 1867-1873





Without comment, let it suffice to quote a Minute of the Committee of Management of the College, dated 15th July 1873 :—

“Without expressing an opinion on any of these disputes, they think that Principal Williams should be respectfully asked to resign his office, the resignation taking effect before the commencement of the Winter Session. In making this recommendation the Committee desire expressly to say that they imply no reflection on the high professional character of Principal Williams, who was unanimously appointed by the Trustees to occupy his office in May 1867. Chronic differences have however arisen which alike in the interest of the Principal and the College appear to render the separation recommended expedient.”

The recommendation was approved by a meeting of the Trustees held on 16th July, and three days later the Principal tendered his resignation.

William Williams left Clyde Street before 1st October 1873, taking with him the vast majority of the students,<sup>1</sup> and forthwith established a new school in Gayfield House. Here, being untrammelled by authority, he found a field of activity where he could exercise absolute and autocratic control, and one doubtless therefore much more congenial to his intensely independent spirit. Those who had the privilege of knowing him intimately can readily imagine that much during his Principalship at Clyde Street must have been irksome to a degree; and it is difficult to escape the conviction

<sup>1</sup> Over forty students left with Williams, and only nine remained at Clyde Street.

that, if he did not actually court his separation from the school, he certainly welcomed it when it came.

The history of the New Veterinary College founded by Williams does not concern us here, except inasmuch as the existence of two veterinary schools within a few hundred yards of each other exerted an influence upon veterinary education that was, at one and the same time, both good and bad. In a small profession, and with a necessarily limited number of students, the consequent division of energy and resources was to be deplored. It is tempting, though not profitable, to dream of what might have been accomplished during the next quarter of a century had the disruption never taken place. To the credit side of the account, however, must be placed the lively and, on the whole, healthy rivalry that spurred the two institutions to vigorous effort.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Few towns, if any, can claim to have been the home, at different times, of three veterinary schools; and few countries of the size and resources of Scotland can claim to have supported three veterinary schools at the same time. Gamgee's College existed in Edinburgh from 1857 to 1865, and Williams' from 1873 to 1904. In 1862, James M'Call, one of William Dick's pupils and for a time his assistant, founded the Glasgow Veterinary College.



## VIII

THE departure of Williams and the establishment of his school at Gayfield House had a greater effect than the mere loss of students: it meant the loss, for a time at any rate, of clinical material for the instruction of those students that remained and those that followed after them. Though it is difficult to see how the arrangement can ever have been expected to be entirely satisfactory, we have to remember that, until 1895, the veterinary practice associated with the College—that is, the clinical material available for teaching purposes—was mainly, if not entirely, the property of members of the staff, and not of the College itself. Indeed, for several years after Dick's death, the only person connected with the College that was entitled to practise was the Principal. In 1871, however, equal rights were extended to all veterinary members of the staff. The altered conditions did not mend matters very much so far as the College was concerned, for each practice was still the personal property of the practitioner. The fees went to supplement his salary, and, should he sever his connection with the College, he naturally took his clients with him.

Not until 1895 was this eminently undesirable state

of affairs remedied. Then the Trustees framed a regulation to the effect that "all the fees charged and all the emoluments derived from practice of every kind shall belong to the College. . . . No member of the teaching or practising staff shall carry on or be interested in any business for his individual behoof. . . . In future all the practice and business which may be carried on by members of the veterinary staff shall belong to the College."

When, therefore, Williams left Clyde Street, he naturally took with him most of the material available for clinical instruction. Thomas Walley certainly had a practice of his own in Leith, but, seeing that it had only been in existence for about a year, it cannot have been capable of yielding a great abundance of teaching material.

By the disruption, the Clyde Street school was also deprived of a library. By what proved an unfortunate arrangement, the library at that time belonged to a society composed of the students, and was not the actual property of the College. When the majority of the students migrated, therefore, it was held that the society had also migrated. The library consequently left Clyde Street along with the society.

It is clear that a position of no little difficulty confronted William Fearnley, Veterinary Surgeon, of Leeds, when, on 26th August 1873, the Trustees unanimously appointed him Principal; "his remuneration to be (1) one-fourth of the class fees paid by students (excluding amateurs), (2) the endowment of £50 paid by Miss Dick, and (3) two-thirds of the fees

derived from the veterinary practice of the College after deduction of all expenses of the College.”

Fearnley certainly cannot have had his position salved by very rich emoluments, for it is safe to assume that his two-thirds share of the fees from the veterinary practice, at the outset at any rate, was a small one for the reason just given. And one-fourth of the class fees could hardly have amounted to a large sum, for there appear to have been only twenty-six students in attendance during session 1873-74.

Judging from a letter he addressed to the Trustees, his position was made all the more difficult by the very scanty equipment he found in the College when he assumed the duties of Principalship. His troubles were further augmented by a difference of opinion between himself and Murie, who resigned the Professorship of Anatomy in December 1873.

It is to be gathered, moreover, that to add discomfort to difficulty, and annoyance to both, there was a certain amount of interference with the more strictly domestic affairs of the College. If report speaks truly, Fearnley's authority did not receive very real support from one, at least, of the members of the Town Council. Whether this was so or not, he found his position both uncomfortable and insecure, and, at the end of the summer session of 1874, he tendered his resignation in a letter the terms of which cannot fail to command admiration. “Events,” he wrote, “are constantly occurring which render it painfully evident to me that I have neither your [the Trustees] support nor confidence. This being so, I must either resign an



anomalous office or lose my self-respect, and as I infinitely prefer to retain the latter I respectfully tender my resignation."

The Principalship was thereupon offered to William Robertson, of Kelso, who, however, ultimately declined to accept save on conditions to which the Trustees could not agree.<sup>1</sup>

Negotiations with Robertson having fallen through, Thomas Walley, at that time teacher of the subjects of Anatomy and Cattle Pathology, was appointed Principal; an office that he held until his death in 1894.<sup>2</sup> His Principalship, compared with that of his predecessors, was one of peace and tranquillity. During the earlier years of his tenure of the office, the effects of the disruption of 1873 were still acutely felt, and shown by the comparatively small number of students in attendance; but this righted itself, for the reputation of the College as a teaching institution of high standard was maintained—thanks to an enthusiastic and efficient staff—and the wise and calm administration that was essential was forthcoming.

On the 3rd October 1894, that is, at the beginning of the session during which Walley died, Thomas A. Dollar, of London, presented to the College a portrait of Miss Dick, and delivered the Introductory Address that then, and for many years, was customary on the

<sup>1</sup> Robertson subsequently became the Principal of the London Veterinary College.

<sup>2</sup> On the resignation by Wm. C. Branford, in 1876, of the Chair of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery, Walley became teacher of these subjects; and John (afterwards Sir John) MacFadyean was appointed to succeed him as Professor of Anatomy.



THOMAS WALLEY, Principal 1874-1894

[Face p. 70]





opening day of a new session. In the course of his address, Mr Dollar stated that during the previous session (1893-94) the number of students had been "upwards of 300"<sup>1</sup>; which, though non-professional students were doubtless included, contrasts strongly with the forty-five which Walley himself says were all that attended during his first year as Principal; and serves to show that, in spite of the presence of a rival school in the same town, the College prospered notably during Walley's twenty years as Principal.

The reign of Thomas Walley was mainly marked by a gradual extension of the teaching activities of the College, with natural and inevitable changes in the staff. The curriculum and the professional examinations were amplified during the earlier years of Walley's Principalship, and a further extension was imminent at the time of his death. Up to 1872, candidates for the certificate of the Highland and Agricultural Society had to attend courses of instruction for two sessions, at the end of which time they were subjected to a single oral examination. In 1872, though the curriculum remained the same in point of length, two oral examinations were imposed, one at the end of each of the two sessions; and in the following year the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons also instituted two examinations. It was quickly found, however, that two sessions did not afford sufficient time for the acquisition of the knowledge that had come to be deemed necessary, and

<sup>1</sup> In this connection, it is to be remembered that the number of students was swollen at this time by a rush to evade the extended curriculum that came into force in 1895.

the curriculum was accordingly extended to three sessions, with an oral examination at the end of each. The institution of three sessions and three examinations permitted a more rational grouping of subjects, and, what is more important, a more leisurely and consequently more thorough instruction of the student.

These developments did not write a very showy or intriguing page in the history of the College, but were really just as important in their effects on the school and on the graduates trained in the school, as many of the more stirring events of the past. They were normal progressive changes, and as such were the natural predecessors of further advances that were made shortly after the death of Walley.

In an account of the Principalship of Thomas Walley should be recorded one of the several structural alterations that were, from time to time, made in the Clyde Street buildings, to adapt them to the recurrent demand for additional accommodation. It will probably be better, however, to include this in a connected narrative of the successive transformations of the old buildings that finally ended in their desertion by the College and their conversion into a so-called "picture-house."<sup>1</sup>

Although it concerns the history of the College no more than remotely, an unpleasant episode should perhaps be briefly noted in this place. At the pro-

<sup>1</sup> It is not without interest to note that the buildings in Leith Walk that formed the home of Williams' College after its removal from Gayfield House, have also been converted into a place of entertainment where cinematographic films are exhibited.



fessional examinations held by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in January 1887, one of the examiners raised the ire of the candidates by what they regarded as unfair methods that resulted in a considerable crop of rejections. A riot on a small scale ensued, followed by an indignation meeting at which students from both veterinary Colleges were present. That the students had some measure of right on their side, will probably be considered as shown by the subsequent institution of reforms that were adumbrated in resolutions passed at the indignation meeting.

Thomas Walley died on 10th December 1894, but his office was not immediately filled. There was a short interregnum, during which, it is natural to suppose, the Trustees were carefully weighing the relative claims of possible successors. More than one member of the staff might be regarded as having some measure of claim to the Principalship, and it is easy to understand that the Trustees feared that undue haste might have uncomfortable consequences. Not until 7th May 1895 did they come to a decision, and they then appointed John Robert Urquhart Dewar as Principal.

As during the Principalship of Walley, so during that of his successor, the history of the College is mainly one of quiet and unostentatious development and extension of teaching. In 1895, the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons brought into operation regulations whereby a four-session curriculum was demanded, with four professional examinations, one at the end of each session. They, further, ordained that a written



test should be added to the oral mode of examination that had obtained up to this time.

Though the greater part of Dewar's period of office was mainly one of steady, if slow, development, the later years of his Principalship were marked by an entire and momentous change in the form of management of the College, and the inception of a scheme that was to lead to the erection of a vastly enlarged school on an entirely new site.

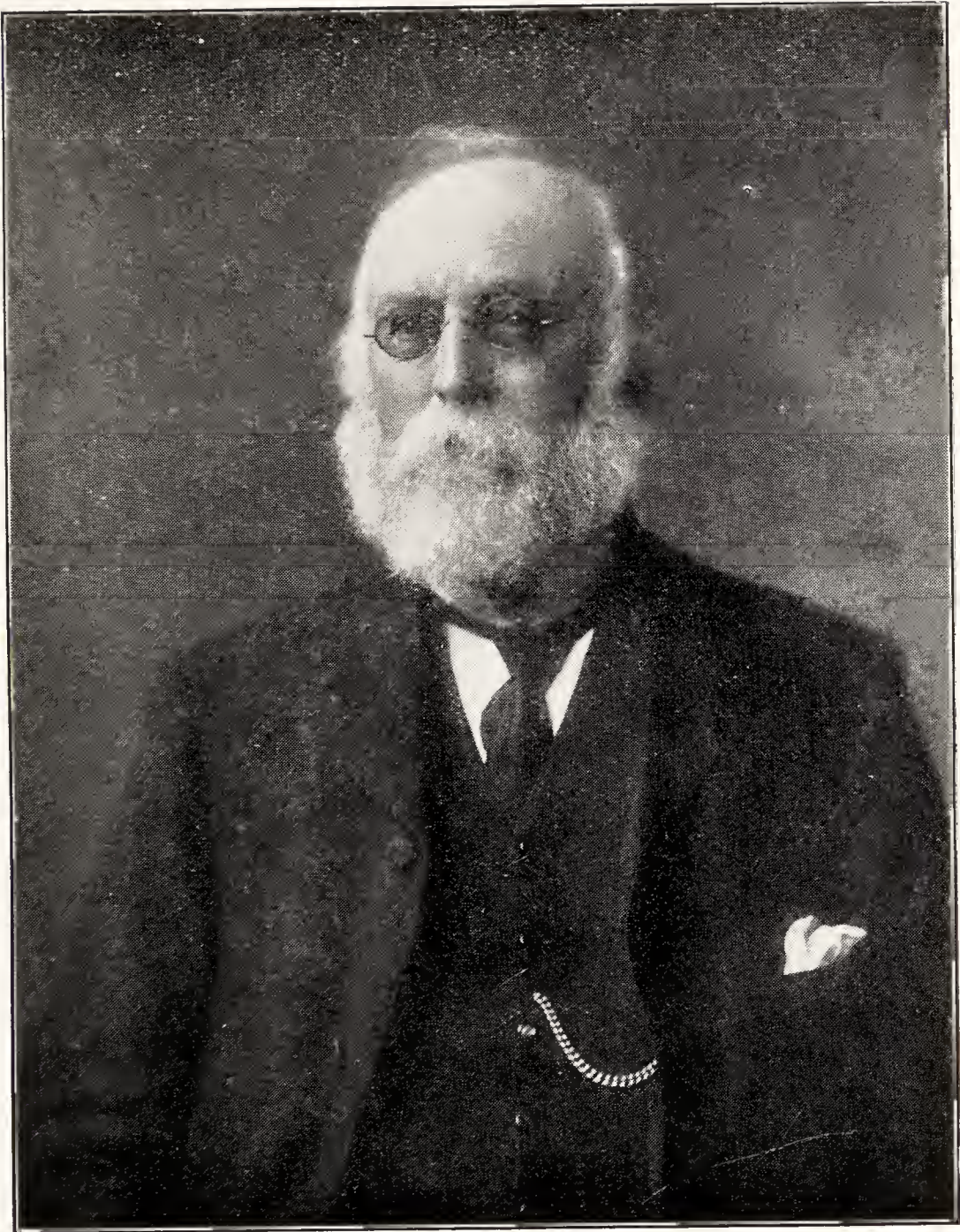
After negotiations that had extended over a period of two years, an Agreement was signed by the Trustees (in 1905) whereby the management of the College was transferred from them to a new and representative Board of Management. By the same deed, Alexander Inglis Maccallum agreed to pay over securities and investments for the sum of £15,000 for the endowment of a Chair of Pathology and Bacteriology in the College.<sup>1</sup> The Trustees of Miss Mary Dick undertook to hand over to the College one moiety of the residue of her estate, amounting to £11,500 or thereby, for the endowment of "The Mary Dick Chair of Physiology": the other moiety (about £13,000) to be paid to the University for the endowment of "The Barclay and Goodsir Chair of Comparative Anatomy."<sup>2</sup>

The College was to be incorporated under the name of "The Royal (Dick) Veterinary College, Edinburgh";

<sup>1</sup> In addition to this endowment, Mr Maccallum, at a later date, contributed £10,500 to the New Buildings Fund.

<sup>2</sup> In terms of the Agreement, it might be arranged with the Barclay and Goodsir Professor or Lecturer to deliver his lectures in the College premises. This arrangement was made on the institution of the Lectureship in 1911, and still holds good.





ALEXANDER INGLIS MACCALLUM

[Face p. 74





and, as part of the scheme, the University of Edinburgh was to take steps to obtain powers to grant degrees in Veterinary Science.<sup>1</sup>

The new Board of Management met for the first time on the 24th July 1905, and was composed of the following :—

Alexander Inglis Maccallum, M.R.C.V.S., appointed by the Deed of Agreement; Treasurer Brown and Bailie Mallinson, representing the Corporation of Edinburgh; Principal Sir William Turner, K.C.B., and Professor John Rankine, K.C., representing the University of Edinburgh; Middleton Rettie, K.C., representing the Trustees of Miss Mary Dick; Alexander Pottie, Senr., M.R.C.V.S., Paisley, Andrew Spreull, M.R.C.V.S., Dundee, and J. W. M'Intosh, M.R.C.V.S., Dalkeith, representing the members of the veterinary profession practising in Scotland; John M. Martin, Mid-Calder, representing the Highland and Agricultural Society; John M'Hutchen Dobbie, Dalkeith, representing the Edinburgh and East of Scotland College of Agriculture; the Very Rev. John Gillespie, LL.D., Mouswald Manse, representing the West of Scotland Agricultural College; and John Mair, Old Meldrum, representing the Aberdeen and North of Scotland Agricultural College.

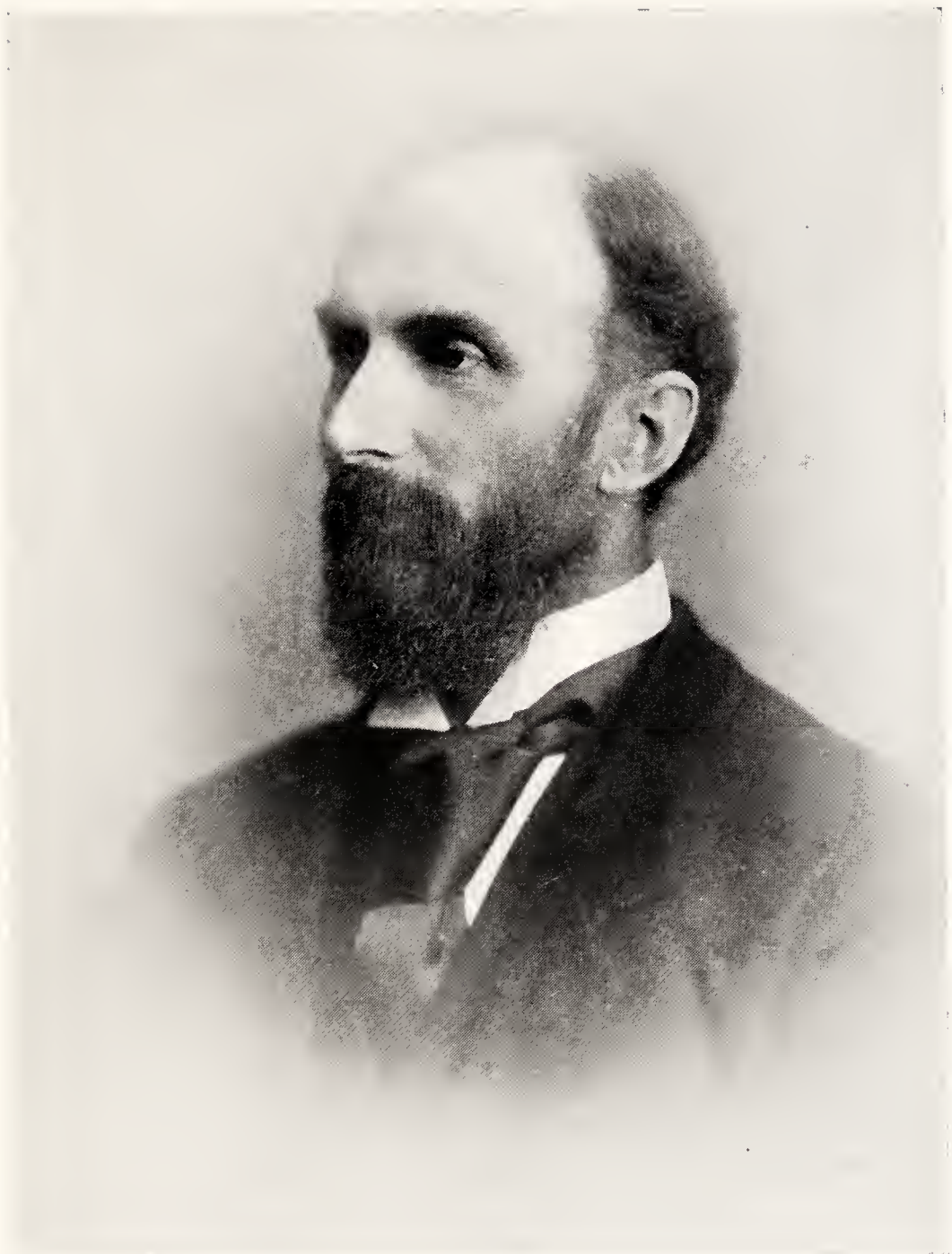
Sir William Turner was the first Chairman, and continued in that office until October 1912, when he resigned and was succeeded by Professor (afterwards Sir John) Rankine, K.C.

Pressure upon the accommodation afforded by the Clyde Street buildings had been growing steadily for

<sup>1</sup> University degrees were instituted in 1911.

some time, and one of the first problems the new Board had to solve was whether the buildings could be extended and adapted sufficiently to meet immediate requirements and the probable needs of the future, or whether it was not necessary to find a home for the school elsewhere.

On the 19th June 1911, Professor Dewar resigned, after having been on the staff of the College for nineteen years, during sixteen of which he held the office of Principal. On his retirement, to mark their appreciation of his services to the College, as well as to veterinary science generally, the teachers and students presented him with a piece of plate.



JOHN ROBERT URQUHART DEWAR  
Principal 1895-1911





## IX

WE have seen that, at different times, William Dick made structural alterations and extensions to the Clyde Street buildings, which, in 1833, culminated in a school for which he had every reason to be proud. It appears, however, that almost immediately after his death the suggestion was made that the College should be removed to some other part of the town; and in 1868 a strongly worded petition was addressed to the Lord Provost by the professors and students. Though it is not difficult for anyone familiar with the Principal of that day to detect his hand in the petition, and though, consequently, it is safe to conclude that the shadows of the picture were in no way extenuated, there can be little doubt that some justification existed for the terms of the petition. The character of the street in which the College was situated was touched upon, and the inadequate accommodation and insanitary condition of some parts of the buildings were emphasised. The petition closed, in a peroration that ought to have moved his Lordship, with the following words: "We hereby petition Your Lordship to bring the matter before the whole Council of the City, and remove the College from the vicious and degrading locality in

which it now stands, and place it with the architectural improvements demanded by advancing science in a locality where the affiliating influences of the University can readily reach it.”<sup>1</sup>

Some tentative steps were taken to transplant the College to a place where it might be in close proximity to the University; but apparently negotiations gradually came to an end. What was actually done to ameliorate the conditions at Clyde Street is not on record; but some improvements must have been effected, for it was not until the '80s that anything serious was undertaken to extend and improve the accommodation.

In September 1885, it is reported to the Trustees that a minute examination had been made of the whole College buildings. “These appear to have been raised,” says the report, “from time to time, to meet some immediate exigency and with little regard to any general plan. . . . There is abundant space, if properly applied, to meet all the requirements of the College. . . . The City Superintendent should be instructed to prepare a sketch plan of what he would recommend to be done.”

In connection with the proposed alterations, it is interesting to note that in December 1885 the Trustees reported that they had “acquired the small property at the north-west corner of the Dick Veterinary College, Clyde Street, at the sum of £600.” This corner

<sup>1</sup> It appears that about this time the *Senatus Academicus* had under consideration a scheme for granting degrees in Veterinary Science. Nothing, however, came of it.



evidently was the only part of the College block that had not been purchased by William Dick. Having now bought it, the Trustees were free to go on with their scheme of extension, and in July 1886 the Act and Warrant of the Dean of Guild Court for the alterations was presented, minuted and engrossed.<sup>1</sup>

And now, for another twenty years, the Clyde Street buildings were deemed sufficient for the work of the College, though, towards the end of that time, there was growing inconvenience caused by the gradual increase in the number of the classes and the steadily increasing claims for additional laboratory accommodation.

As soon as the new Board of Management had comfortably settled into harness, the matter of the College buildings was raised. Clearly, the first thing to be done was to enquire fully into the existing state of matters, and this was done by a Committee specially appointed for the purpose. The Committee submitted a very unfavourable report (in February 1907), and Mr David M'Arthy, Lic.R.I.B.A., was consequently instructed to prepare sketch plans of alterations and extensions that were imperatively necessary to meet immediate requirements. There was never much

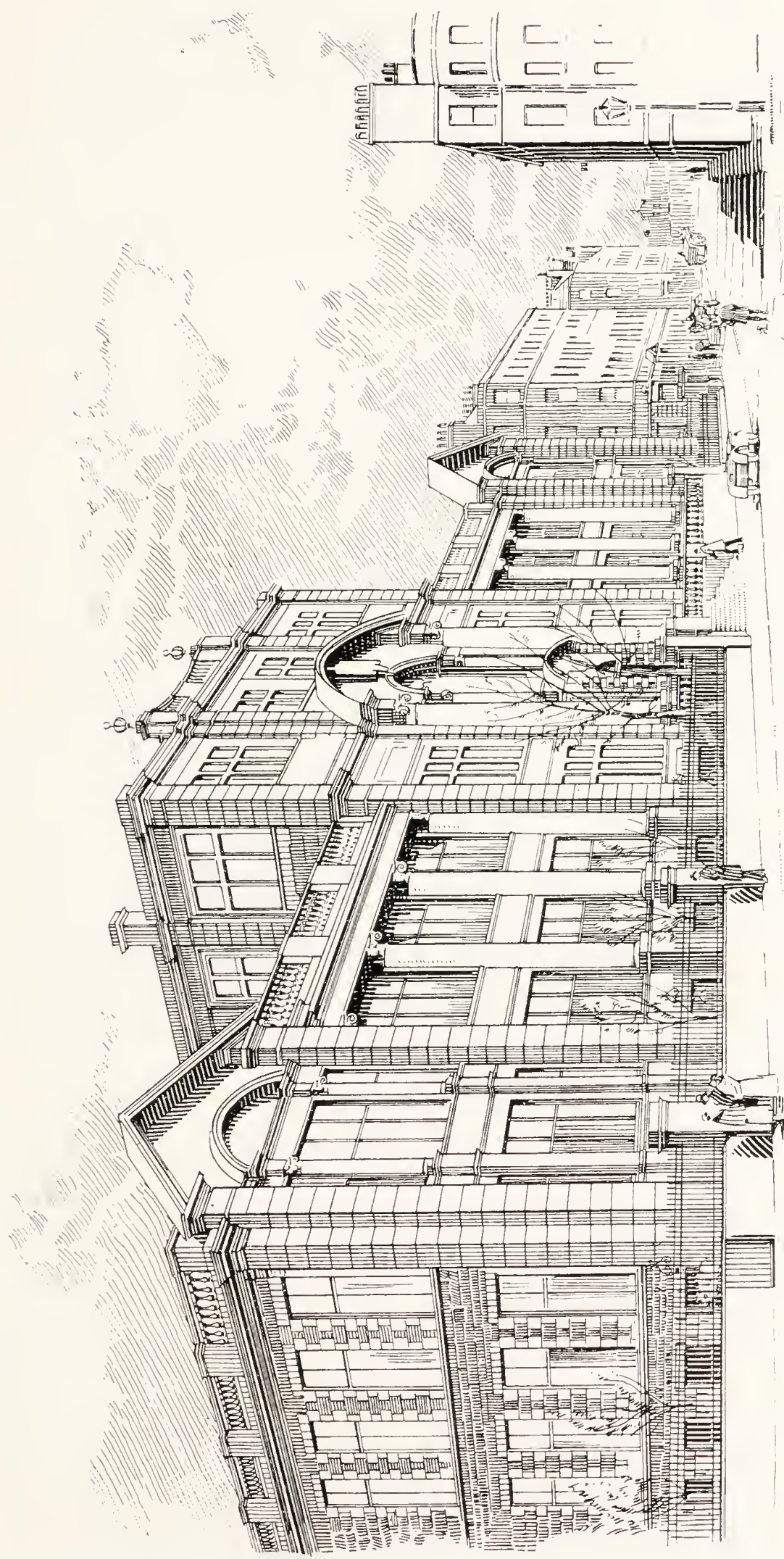
<sup>1</sup> Building operations must have been begun before the Act and Warrant of the Dean of Guild Court was presented as recorded in the Town Council Minutes. If this were not so, it can only be concluded that progress with these structural changes was made at a very much faster rate than the building operations of a later chapter in the history of the College would lead one to expect; for invitations were issued from the City Chambers in October 1886, to an Introductory Address to be delivered on the 27th of that month by Principal Walley "in the New Anatomical Room."

doubt, however, that any adaptation of the existing buildings would produce but an indifferently satisfactory result ; and the necessity for new buildings on a much less confined site was quickly apparent. The possibilities of a piece of land at Gorgie were debated, and sketch plans were prepared ; but after twelve months' discussion, the site was declared unsuitable. Other sites were also examined, and likewise condemned.

Then the old brewery and the immediately adjoining houses at Summerhall were discovered, and on 2nd December 1908 it was definitely decided to purchase this property and land. A certain amount of difficulty arose respecting the purchase-price, but this was removed by the good offices and liberality of Mr C. E. Price, then Member of Parliament for Central Edinburgh. In June 1909, the first draft plans of buildings to be erected at Summerhall were generally approved, and there seemed to be every reason to hope that, at last, definite progress would be made.

But progress was slow. Professors were consulted ; plans were drawn ; and schedules and estimates were prepared. The architect and the Principal were sent to inspect some of the Continental veterinary schools. Then doubts arose regarding ways and means. Consultations with the Board of Agriculture for Scotland were held : Professors were asked to curb their ambitions and curtail their requirements : plans and estimates were readjusted. And this kind of thing was repeated so often that one, at least, of those most closely concerned was almost driven to the conclusion that to posterity would be finally delegated





Royal (Dick)  
Veterinary College.  
Edinburgh.

J. Murray





the actual translation of paper plans into material buildings.

It was not until the early autumn of 1913 that the demolition of the ramshackle buildings on the Summerhall site was begun. On the 4th of November of that year—six years after it had been decided that new College buildings were essential—it is noted that “actual building has begun.”

In the spring of the following year the new buildings had advanced sufficiently far to justify the Board in making arrangements for the laying of a Memorial Stone. On the afternoon of Tuesday, 21st July 1914—a sweltering day without a breath of wind—the Memorial Stone was laid by the Marquess of Linlithgow, in the presence of a large company that included the Lord Provost of Edinburgh and representatives of agriculture and medical, veterinary, scientific and educational institutions. The stone rests underneath the threshold of the main entrance, and below it is deposited a sealed lead casket containing a copy of the *Scotsman*, a portrait of the Founder, a copy of the current College Calendar, and coins of the realm.

Begun vigorously and proceeding with commendable rapidity, building was soon interfered with by the outbreak of the Great War. Nevertheless, a note is in existence to the effect that at 9 A.M. on Saturday, 12th December 1914, the last stone was set at the top of the front block of buildings. This, however, only means that the bare walls had been erected: progress in the interior was much slower.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The walls of the clinical block were completed somewhat later.

As time and the war dragged on, and as funds diminished with abnormal rapidity because of the war, it soon became evident that the transference of classes from Clyde Street could not wait for the full equipment and absolute completion of the new buildings. At the beginning of the Spring Term in January 1916, the first, second, and third years' classes were transferred; and in the following April the clinical department and the final year's classes migrated to Summerhall. The 15th day of April 1916, therefore, marks the final abandonment by the College of what had been its home for over ninety years.

Two notable fragments were carried from the old buildings to the new. One of these was the well-known figure of a horse that used to form the highest point of the Clyde Street buildings. This is now over the archway of the entrance to the Maccallum Clinical Department. The other was that of the seated figure of William Dick that, underneath the clock in the Clyde Street "yard," had watched over many generations of students. It now watches younger generations from its position in the quadrangle of the new buildings.

A further association with the old home of the College is a stained-glass window on the staircase of the main entrance, which was placed here by graduates who wished thus to commemorate their sojourn in Clyde Street.<sup>1</sup>

Lastly, but by no means least, the Library, which

<sup>1</sup> The window bears the following inscription :—

CENTESIMO · COLLEGII · ANNO · VETERIS · ALVMNI · SEDIS · NOVAM  
HAC · FENESTRA · EXORNANDAM · CVRAVERVNT.









contains books that belonged to William Dick himself, forms a close and consecrated link between the old home and the new ; for it has been made the College War Memorial, and on a mural tablet within it, are inscribed the names of those graduates and students, belonging to both the old and the new, who, responding to their country's call, made the Great Sacrifice.



## WILLIAM DICK'S EDINBURGH.

The places associated with William Dick are marked in red and imposed upon a plan of the town as it is at the present day. Some of the places marked have ceased to exist.

1. St Andrew Square.
2. Register House.
3. Royal Scottish Academy.
4. General Post-Office.
5. Calton Hill.
6. Waverley Station.
7. Royal High School.
8. Tron Church.
9. Canongate Church.
10. Holyrood Palace.
11. University. Old Buildings.
12. Royal (Dick) Veterinary College. New Buildings.
13. White Horse Close. The birthplace of William Dick.
14. No. 190 Rose Street. William Dick's parents at one time lived in Rose Street, and it is assumed that this is the house. It was purchased by William Dick and is now the property of the College.
15. Trinity College Church, where William Dick was baptised.
16. "Mud Island" or "Tumble Dust," where the Dicks lived before removing to Clyde Street.
17. Paul's Work (Hospital of Our Lady), where William Dick went to school.
18. Shakespeare Square, where William Dick went to school.
19. The old College buildings in Clyde Street.
20. Surgeon Square, where Dr John Barclay's lecture-room was situated.
21. Freemasons' Hall, Niddry Street, where William Dick lectured in the School of Arts.
22. Calton Convening Rooms, where William Dick delivered his lectures from 1823 to 1829.
23. Calton New Burying Ground, where William Dick is buried.



WILLIAM DICK'S EDINBURGH





## APPENDIX

### THE EDINBURGH SCHOOL OF ARTS.

#### 1. FROM THE FIRST REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS, MAY 1822.

“The School of Arts of Edinburgh took its origin from an accidental conversation in the shop of Mr Bryson, Watchmaker, in March 1821. To a question, whether young men brought up to the trade of Watchmaking received any mathematical education, Mr Bryson replied, that it is seldom, if ever, the case; that they daily experience the effects of the want of this instruction, but the expense and the usual hours of masters who teach mathematics, put it out of the power of working tradesmen to obtain it. It was suggested, that it might be very possible to devise some plan by which such branches of science as would be useful to mechanics in the exercise of their trade, might be taught at convenient hours, at an expense that would be within their reach; for an institution of this description had long existed in Glasgow, and had been attended with very beneficial effects.”

It appears that after 400 tickets had been sold to those who applied to be students during the first session, it was decided to admit no more. The number, however, was afterwards extended to allow farriers to attend Dick's lectures. A footnote to the Report (p. 15) says, “One of the Farriers who entered as a Student, and attended with regularity, came every night of the Lecture the distance of ten miles from the country.” A table showing the different trades of the students who took out tickets includes seventeen farriers.

Page 25 of the Report contains the following: “If Mr Dick's was a subject of less extensive interest [than Architecture], no

one can hesitate in admitting its high importance and utility, whether we consider the great value of the property which is so often put in jeopardy, by being placed in the power of ignorant farriers, whose rashness is generally proportionate to their ignorance, or view it as a question of humanity. Mr Dick's skill in his profession is too well known to require any notice in this place; but the Directors would not do justice to their feelings, if they did not thus publicly acknowledge their obligation to Mr Dick, for the liberality of his gratuitous services."

*Syllabus of Mr Dick's Lectures.*

*Lecture 1.*—Short general outline of the nature of the art, and the advantage to be derived by farriers and others, from a more extensive acquaintance with it, illustrating this by the errors frequently committed by farriers, the absurdities in many books on Farriery, and the different effects some medicines have on the horse from what they produce in man, and the rapidity with which some diseases destroy this animal.

*Lecture 2.*—Commenced the description of the skeleton of the horse, by examining the structure of the bones of the head, pointing them out by preparations; but examining most minutely the manner of ascertaining the age of the animal by his teeth, with the difference between the natural and artificial mark that is sometimes made; and concluding with remarks on the diseases of the mouth.

*Lecture 3.*—Proceeded to examine the structure of the bones of the spine, of the neck, back, loins, and tail, and also those of the chest; pointing out the advantages or disadvantages arising from the different conformation of these parts in different animals.

*Lecture 4.*—Continued the subject, examining the structure and conformation of the extremities; their proportions, positions, and the different manner in which they move; illustrating the whole by drawings, exhibiting the beauties and defects of the horse.

*Lecture 5.*—Described the bones below the knee and hough, and considered the nature, situation, causes, and effects of those diseases of the bones of the extremities called ring bones,



splints, and spavins, pointing out the most likely means of preventing them, and the various plans for their cure.

*Lecture 6.*—Diseases of the hough continued, the enlargement of mucous capsule about the hough and fetlock joints, called windgall, bog-spavins, and thoroughpins, the same disease, although in different situations, arising from the same causes, and treated in similar manner. Blood-spavins, the only one of dilated or varicose vein in the horse. Strain of the hough, producing curb. On strains in general.

*Lecture 7.*—Continued the discussion on strains; and, before concluding the subject, gave illustrations of the morbid anatomy of strains of the back sinews, showing them so much contracted, that the animal walked on his toe, and describing the division of the flexor tendons, an operation that had several times succeeded in bringing the foot again to the proper position, and rendering the animal again useful. Began to describe the structure of the bones of the foot.

*Lecture 8.*—The anatomy and physiology of the foot continued. The hoof, its wall, sole, bars, and frog, their form and functions, coronary ligament, sensible laminae, sole, frog, and lateral cartilages, blood-vessels, etc.

*Lecture 9.*—Anatomy and physiology of the foot continued. The disease called founder, and inflammation of the foot, the general derangement produced by it explained, causes, effects, and treatment. On corns.

*Lecture 10.*—On contraction, or chronic founder. The various causes illustrated by preparations of morbid anatomy. Nature and situation of the disease. Why contraction is frequently supposed to exist in the shoulder. The symptoms minutely described.

*Lecture 11.*—On the means of preventing contraction. The various plans of shoeing that have been adopted for that purpose exhibited, and their properties explained. On that at present in use. The treatment of the feet in the stable pointed out. The necessity of keeping them cool and moist. Commonly done by filling the sole with stopping. This not quite sufficient to prevent contraction.

*Lecture 12.*—A simple plan recommended, consisting of a clay box in stable, with a cover to open, and allow the feet



to stand in clay, and shut down, and covered with litter at pleasure. Nerving and the other plans of treating contraction, wounds from nails, and in quittor, fistula, and poll-evil. Canker and thrush.

*Lecture 13.*—Structure and economy of the organs of respiration, and the diseases connected with them. Anatomy of the larynx. The greater irritability of it. Why horses are unable to breathe through their mouth. The seat and cause of cough. The advantages of ventilation in stables, and the treatment of coughs.

*Lecture 14.*—The structure and functions of the wind-pipe and lungs. The important office they perform in the system. The change the blood undergoes in passing through them, and the nature of the disease termed roaring pointed out.

*Lecture 15.*—The nature and causes of inflamed lungs. The rapidity and progress of the disease, and the length of time required for the action of medicine. Great difficulty to combat the disease. Most frequently produced by transitions from cold to heat; more especially if confined in foul air, as in close stables, illustrated by striking cases. The treatment. Great advantage derived by keeping cool.

*Lecture 16.*—On the distemper, or epidemic catarrhal fever, with the difference between it and topical inflammation of the lungs, and the difference of treatment necessary in these diseases. Thick wind and broken wind are incurable, but may be relieved in a great measure by attention to diet.

*Lecture 17.*—The anatomy and physiology of the stomach. The smallness of its size. Its different coats. Bots frequently found in it. On digestion. The danger of long fasting, and afterwards allowing the animal to indulge his appetite. It produces over-distension. This very common in cattle. The smallness of the stomach requires frequent supplies, otherwise the system becomes exhausted. Cordials are given with that view, and sometimes with good effect. The action of medicine is very different on the stomach of the horse from what it has on man. Emetic tartar, for instance, in doses of two to four grains, is a powerful emetic, but one hundred times that quantity will not produce any obvious effect on the horse; in short, he cannot vomit. And some, again, give a greater

stimulus to the horse than to man. Oil of turpentine applied to his skin gives him great pain. It has no effect on man.

*Lecture 18.*—Continued the physiology of the stomach and bowels. Slight derangement of these organs throws a horse out of condition. The word condition differently applied. Dealers call a fat horse in condition; but for work, it is in condition when the animal is freed of all the fat possible, but possessing the greatest quantity of muscle. Affections of the mouth prevent condition. Cribbelling, weakness of the bowels, hidebound, moulting, and prejudicious feeding. The affections and symptoms, frequently produced by drinking cold water. It does not remain in the stomach as in man, but passes through a great portion of the intestines. Treatment generally relieved by stimulants.

*Lecture 19.*—The difference of treatment. Inflammation of the bowels pointed out. The necessity of a thorough acquaintance with the symptoms of colic and inflamed bowels. The distinction between the two. What is good for the first is highly injurious in the latter. Purging or diarrhœa. Its causes and treatment. Intestinal calculi, or stone in the intestines, produced by feeding on barley dust; it should never be given to horses. Cases in illustration of the above.

*Lecture 20.*—Inflammation of the liver. Its structure. No gall-bladder. Pain sometimes found in the right shoulder, as in man. Jaundice. The treatment of both these diseases. The anatomy, functions, and diseases of the urinary organs, namely, the kidneys, bladder, etc. The advantages derived from the facility with which some substances act upon them, hence the frequent use of diuretic balls. Calculi, or stone, formed in the pelvis of the kidney. Profuse staling common in the horse. Causes and treatment. Inflammation of these organs. The causes, symptoms, and treatment.

*Lecture 21.*—The anatomy of the brain. Those diseases called Mad Staggers and Sleepy Staggers, or inflammation of the brain. In the first the animal labours under a great delirium, in the latter he is affected with stupor. They are sometimes attacked with a species of this disease upon the road in hot weather, which is called by farriers the Megrims. Stomach staggers is a specific inflammation of the stomach.



Its causes and treatment. The symptoms that distinguish it from inflammation of the brain, or mad staggers.

*Lecture 22.*—The anatomy of the eye. The functions of its different parts pointed out. The diseases to which it is liable. Causes and treatment. The absurd practice of cutting out the haw, or *membrana nictitans*. The necessity of examining the eyes on making the purchase of a horse.

*Lecture 23.*—The diseases of the skin. The mange same as in dogs, similar to the itch in man. Symptoms, causes, and treatment. Grease a specific disease of the horse. Exciting causes and treatment. Produces pustules by inoculation. Farcy a specific disease, in which the absorbents of the skin are inflamed and ulcerated. It is so intimately connected with glanders, that it may be considered only as a different form of the same disease. Glanders situated in the membrane of the nose. Both it and farcy are highly contagious, generally incurable. The various plans of treatment pointed out. Strangles also a specific disease, attended with swelling under the jaws, which suppurates, and leaves the animal not susceptible of taking the disease a second time, or at least very little liable.

*Lecture 24.*—Concluded with a discourse on the nature of warrandice of a horse, or what constitutes soundness and unsoundness in horses, more especially those diseases or defects about which law-suits generally arise.

## 2. FROM THE SECOND REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS, JUNE 1823.

“In addition to the regular business of the School, the Lectures on Farriery, which Mr Dick, Veterinary Surgeon, delivered *gratis* the first year, were repeated last session; the same liberal offer having been again made to the Directors, and which they were glad to accept; being convinced how much such instruction is wanted in this place, and being anxious to contribute to Mr Dick’s views of establishing a Veterinary School in Edinburgh; the other objects for which this Institution was established, not admitting the practicability of that subject being adopted as a permanent branch of instruction in the School of Arts.”

Seven farriers attended the School during this session.



EPITAPH ON WILLIAM DICK'S GRAVE.

This tablet was erected  
in memory of  
JOHN DICK late of the Veterinary College Edinburgh  
who died in 1844 A.D.  
and of JANE ANDERSON his spouse  
who died in 1837 A.D.  
of JOHN DICK their son  
who died 8th July 1821 aged 19 years  
and of GEORGINA, JAMES, GEORGE, and  
SAMUEL WORDSWORTH DICK,  
their children all of whom died in their infancy  
of JOSIAH PERRIN CHEETHAM  
who died in London 24th April 1840  
and at his own request interred here.

WILLIAM DICK

Professor Veterinary College  
who died 4th April 1866  
aged 72 years.

MARY DICK

Craighennochie Burntisland  
died 14th July 1883  
aged 92 years.

## THE DEVELOPMENT OF VETERINARY EDUCATION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The following notes show the evolution of veterinary education in this country from 1823 to the present day.

### I. PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION IN GENERAL EDUCATION.

Prior to 1884, the various veterinary schools imposed whatever tests they pleased. The following certificate is of interest in this connection:—

ROYAL HIGH SCHOOL OF EDINBURGH,  
*November 2, 1874.*

This is to certify that Mr ..... has passed the Preliminary Examination of the Edinburgh Veterinary College.

JAMES DONALDSON, *Rector.*

In 1884, the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons instituted a Preliminary Examination that had to be passed by all who sought the Diploma of Membership of that corporation.

In 1893, the standard of the examination was raised to that required of medical students by the General Medical Council.

In 1915, Latin became an optional subject; but two languages were still required.

In 1923, the list of "required subjects" was again revised, greater choice being given to candidates.

### II. PROFESSIONAL CURRICULUM AND EXAMINATIONS.

#### A. *Highland and Agricultural Society.*

From 1823 to 1872 the curriculum was one of two sessions, and there was one examination (oral) only.

In 1872, while the curriculum remained at two sessions, two oral examinations were imposed. The *First Examination*, held annually in July, consisted of Botany, Chemistry, and Anatomy. The *Second Examination*, held annually in April, consisted of a Practical and Clinical Examination, Physiology

and Histology, Materia Medica, Diseases of Horses, and Diseases of Cattle, Sheep, Swine, and Dogs.

*B. Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.*

From 1844 to 1873 the curriculum consisted of two sessions followed by a single oral examination in (1) Chemistry, Materia Medica, and Pharmacy; (2) Anatomy and Physiology of the Horse; (3) Pathology and Treatment of the Horse; (4) Anatomy, Physiology, and Pathology of the Ox and other domesticated animals.

In 1873 two examinations (both oral) were instituted. *First Examination*: (1) Anatomy and Histology; (2) Materia Medica, Therapeutics, Botany; (3) Chemistry (general and practical) and Toxicology. *Second Examination*: (1) Physiology, Pathology, Morbid Anatomy; (2) Veterinary Surgery, including external diseases of domesticated animals; (3) Veterinary Medicine, including causes (ordinary, special, and parasitic), symptoms, and treatment of diseases in general. There was also an examination on the Principles of Shoeing and the practical details of professional work.

In 1876, three sessions attendance was required and three examinations (all oral) were imposed. *First Examination*: (1) Elementary Anatomy (Osteology and Syndesmology), equine and comparative; (2) Chemistry; (3) Botany, Food Plants, Medicinal Plants, Poisonous Plants growing in the British Isles, and the morphology of such. *Second Examination*: (1) Anatomy of Horse and other domesticated animals; (2) Physiology and Histology. *Third Examination*: (1) Morbid Anatomy, Pathology; (2) Diseases of the horse, including Veterinary Medicine, Surgery, Therapeutics, Materia Medica, Toxicology; (3) Diseases of the other domesticated animals including Veterinary Medicine, Surgery, and Therapeutics; (4) A practical examination in regard to horses; (5) A similar examination for the other domesticated animals.

In 1895, the curriculum was extended to four sessions, and four professional examinations were instituted. From this time onwards, the examinations have been both written and oral. *First Examination*: (1) Anatomy of domesticated



animals—bones, ligaments and joints; (2) Chemistry and Elementary Physics; (3) Elementary Zoology and Botany. *Second Examination*: (1) Anatomy of domesticated animals; (2) Histology and Physiology; (3) Stable Management and Manipulation of domesticated animals, and Principles of Shoeing. *Third Examination*: (1) Morbid Anatomy, Pathology and Bacteriology; (2) Materia Medica, Practical Pharmacy, Therapeutics, and Toxicology; (3) Veterinary Hygiene and Dietetics. *Fourth Examination*: (1) Principles and Practice of Veterinary Medicine, Meat Inspection; (2) Principles and Practice of Veterinary Surgery and Obstetrics.

### THE STAFF—PAST AND PRESENT.

So far as available information goes, William Dick was the sole teacher in his school up to 1844.<sup>1</sup> In that year he began to form a staff, the first members of which were John Barlow and Dr George Wilson. A little later, Dr Peter Young and Finlay Dun were added. These, with William Worthington as Clinical Assistant, composed the staff in 1850; and they, or their successors, formed the entire staff at the time of Dick's death.

Naturally, so long as the veterinary members of the staff were so few, it was a common and inevitable occurrence for a single teacher to have charge of several subjects, and these not necessarily very closely related. As time went on, however, specialisation gradually became more and more marked until it was possible to say that a given member of the staff, though he may have been required to teach a minor subject also, was the teacher of one definite major subject. In the following lists the name of a member of the staff is given, as a rule, only under the heading of his major subject.

It will be observed also that, among the veterinary members of the staff, it was not uncommon for one to change his subject, should he prefer to do so, when the resignation of a colleague gave him the opportunity. This is especially noticeable with

<sup>1</sup> William Worthington became Dick's assistant in 1840, and possibly took part in clinical instruction.





WILLIAM WORTHINGTON  
Clinical Assistant 1840-1867





Medicine and Surgery, after their separation. It was apparently felt—why, it is hard to say—that Medicine carried with it a more dignified position than Surgery, and the teacher of Surgery, therefore, changed to Medicine when he had the chance. But this does not mean that the surgeon who became the teacher of Medicine ceased to practise Surgery. Indeed, it is only within quite recent years that Medicine and Surgery have been taught and practised by different specialists who do not invade each other's province.

Originally there was a still further complication, because the Diseases of the Horse and the Diseases of Cattle were taught by different members of the staff, who, nevertheless, treated both horses and cattle indiscriminately. An endeavour has been made to simplify the lists by including the teachers of Hippopathology (Diseases of the Horse) under the heading of Professors of Medicine and Surgery.

It is remarkable that, in the days when it was the rule for the veterinary members of the staff to be entrusted with a plurality of subjects, Finlay Dun should have been an exception. He was appointed by William Dick in 1847 to give instruction in *Materia Medica* only, and it is noteworthy that, since his resignation, this subject has always been conjoined with some other. For this reason, it is not included in the following lists.

Stable Management was formerly taught by a junior member of the staff (the House Surgeon), who, by reason of his junior position, was something of a bird-of-passage. A more permanent appointment has been made within the last few years, and the title of the subject has been changed to Zootechny.

#### PRINCIPALS.

1866-1867.	J. H. B. Hallen.
1867-1873.	William Williams. <sup>1</sup>
1873-1874.	William Fearnley.
1874-1894.	Thomas Walley.
1895-1911.	John R. U. Dewar.
1911-	O. Charnock Bradley.

<sup>1</sup> Afterwards Principal of the New Veterinary College, Edinburgh.

## PROFESSORS OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY.

## Appointed.

- 1866. J. H. B. Hallen.
- 1867. William Williams.
- 1873. William Fearnley.
- 1874. W. C. Branford.
- 1876. Thomas Walley.

## PROFESSORS OF CATTLE PATHOLOGY.

- 1867. J. A. M'Bride.
- 1869. W. E. Duns.
- 1871. Thomas Walley.

## PROFESSORS OF MEDICINE.

- 1892. Thomas Walley.
- 1895. John R. U. Dewar.
- 1911. Arthur Gofton.<sup>1</sup>
- 1915. A. M'Turk.
- 1919. J. Russell Greig.

## PROFESSORS OF SURGERY.

- 1892. John R. U. Dewar.
- 1895. J. W. Whitecross.
- 1900. John Dunstan.
- 1905. Arthur Gofton.
- 1911. Ainsworth Wilson.
- 1919. William M. Mitchell.

## CLINICAL PROFESSOR.

- 1874. Colin C. Baird.

## PROFESSOR OF ANATOMY, PHYSIOLOGY, AND PATHOLOGY.

- 1844. John Barlow.

<sup>1</sup> Now Chief Veterinary Inspector, City of Edinburgh.

## PROFESSORS OF ANATOMY.

## Appointed.

- 1856. Thomas Strangeways.
- 1869. W. C. Branford.
- 1871. G. W. Davidson.
- 1873. John Murie.
- 1874. Thomas Walley.
- 1876. John M'Fadyean.<sup>1</sup>
- 1892. A. E. Mettam.<sup>2</sup>
- 1900. O. Charnock Bradley.

## PROFESSORS OF PHYSIOLOGY.

- (?) Peter Young.
- 1874. J. G. M'Kendrick.<sup>3</sup>
- 1876. D. J. Cunningham.<sup>4</sup>
- 1882. Alexander James.
- 1898. D. Noel Paton.<sup>5</sup>
- 1902. D. A. Farquharson.
- 1919. H. Dryerre.

## PROFESSORS OF CHEMISTRY.

- 1844. George Wilson.
- 1852. Allan Dalzell.
- 1869. James Dewar.<sup>6</sup>
- 1875. A. P. Aitken.
- 1904. James Kerr.
- 1907. G. H. Gemmell.

<sup>1</sup> Now Sir John M'Fadyean, Principal and Dean of the Royal Veterinary College, London.

<sup>2</sup> Afterwards Principal of the Royal Veterinary College, Dublin.

<sup>3</sup> Afterwards Professor of Physiology, University of Glasgow.

<sup>4</sup> Afterwards Professor of Anatomy, University of Edinburgh.

<sup>5</sup> Now Professor of Physiology, University of Glasgow.

<sup>6</sup> Afterwards Sir James Dewar, Fullerian Professor of Chemistry, Royal Institution, London.



## PROFESSORS OF BOTANY.

Appointed.

1873. J. Hutton Balfour.<sup>1</sup>  
 1877. I. Bayley Balfour.<sup>2</sup>  
 (?) 1884. J. M. M'Farlane.  
 1892. J. A. Terras.

## PROFESSOR OF ZOOLOGY.

1893. J. Arthur Thomson.<sup>3</sup>

## PROFESSORS OF BIOLOGY.

1895. J. Arthur Thomson.  
 1899. Gregg Wilson.<sup>4</sup>  
 1903. R. Stewart Macdougall.

## PROFESSORS OF PATHOLOGY.

1892. Stewart Stockman.<sup>5</sup>  
 1903. Gerald R. Leighton.<sup>6</sup>  
 1913. D. C. Matheson.

## PROFESSOR OF HYGIENE AND DIETETICS.

1914. R. G. Linton.

## LECTURERS ON STABLE MANAGEMENT.

1895. D. C. Campbell.  
 1897. H. Lomas.  
 1898. A. M. Macfarlane.

<sup>1</sup> and <sup>2</sup> Regius Professors of Botany, University of Edinburgh. They were never actually on the staff of the Veterinary College, but students of the College attended their classes.

<sup>3</sup> Now Professor of Zoology, University of Aberdeen.

<sup>4</sup> Now Professor of Zoology, Queen's University, Belfast.

<sup>5</sup> Now Sir Stewart Stockman, Chief Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

<sup>6</sup> Now Medical Officer, Scottish Board of Health.

LECTURERS ON STABLE MANAGEMENT—*Continued*

## Appointed.

- 1899. H. W. Robson.
- 1900. J. J. O'Connor.<sup>1</sup>
- 1903. J. D. H. Sarjeant.
- 1909. W. J. Moody.
- 1910. James Anderson.
- 1911. J. Basil Buxton.<sup>2</sup>
- 1913. J. L. Cormack.
- 1914. R. Scott Little.

## LECTURER ON ZOOTECHNY.

- 1919. William C. Miller.

## LECTURER ON JURISPRUDENCE.

- 1920. James R. Gibb.

## LECTURER ON HISTOLOGY.

- 1920. T. Grahame.

## ASSISTANTS IN ANATOMY.

- 1908. R. G. Linton.
- 1909. J. Gilray Macgregor.
- 1910. Wm. M. Mitchell.
- 1919. T. Grahame.

## DEMONSTRATORS OF PATHOLOGY.

- 1919. N. Bisset.
- 1920. J. D. Coutts.
- 1922. C. M'Hattie.

## HOUSE SURGEONS.

*Up to 1919 these were the Lecturers on Stable Management.*

- 1919. William C. Miller.
- 1920. A. K. Cameron.

<sup>1</sup> Now Professor of Surgery, Veterinary College, Dublin.

<sup>2</sup> Now on the Scientific Staff, Medical Research Council.

## CLINICAL ASSISTANTS.

1840. William Worthington.

1922. D. L. M'Whirter.

It is noteworthy that, with seven exceptions, the names of the veterinary surgeons in the above lists are all those of former students of the Edinburgh school. Seldom has it been found necessary to select men who were not graduates of the school, to fill the various veterinary appointments. On the other hand, at one time or another, graduates have been on the teaching staffs of every veterinary school in the British Empire; and for a time it was possible to say that the Principals of all the five veterinary schools in the United Kingdom had been former teachers in the Clyde Street school.

The foregoing remarks must not be construed as indicating that there has ever been any narrow-mindedness displayed in the making of appointments. That national or other prejudice was at no time present is strikingly shown by the fact that, taking the whole history of the school into account, half of the veterinary members of the staff have been those whose birthplace was outside Scotland; and, since the death of William Dick, only one Principal has been a Scotsman—a significant illustration of the liberal mindedness of the electors.

## WAR MEMORIAL LIBRARY.

The War Memorial Library contains a mural tablet that was unveiled by Sir Robert Greig, *M.C.*, LL.D., before a large and representative gathering, on 13th June 1922. The following is a copy of the programme of the ceremony:—

ROYAL (DICK) VETERINARY COLLEGE, EDINBURGH.

WAR MEMORIAL. UNVEILING CEREMONY.

13th June 1922.

I. IN THE HALL.

*Prayer*—Rev. Professor Kennedy, D.D.

The Chairman of the War Memorial Committee (Principal O. Charnock Bradley, President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons) asks the



Chairman of the Board of Governors (Sir John Rankine, K.C.) to accept custody of the Memorial.

Sir John Rankine.

President of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh  
(Sir David Wallace, K.B.E., C.M.G.).

Sir Robert Greig, M.C., LL.D.

II. IN THE LIBRARY.

*Prayer of Thanksgiving*—Rev. J. Harry Miller, D.D.,  
Chaplain, O.T.C.

*Unveiling of the Memorial*—Sir Robert Greig, M.C., LL.D.

*Prayer of Dedication.*

*Benediction.*

LAST POST.

“Flowers o’ the Forest.”

RÉVEILLÉ.

The mural tablet is inscribed as follows:—

*PRO PATRIA.*

JAS. S. H. BENNETT.  
THOMAS BROWN.  
J. W. BROWNLEES.  
WM. TULLY CHRISTIE.  
DAVID HANNAY.  
GEORGE HISLOP.  
HENRY C. LOWRY.  
DONALD M’CALLUM.  
MAX MENDELSON.  
IAN NESS.  
D. S. PHORSON.  
JACOB PRIMMER.  
JOHN STORIE.  
E. L. TOTTENHAM.

MCMXIV-MCMXVIII.

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